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NON-TEXT PAGE

523 CMR 5.00: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section

- 5.01: Definitions
- 5.02: Application
- 5.03: Variances

5.01: Definitions

As used in 523 CMR, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them in 523 CMR 5.01.

Amateur. An unarmed combatant who has never accepted money or other remuneration for participating in an unarmed combat competition and has not previously been licensed as a professional in Massachusetts or any other jurisdiction.

Back of the Head. The nape of the neck area up until the top of the ears, and above the ears in the mohawk area from the top of the ears up until the crown of the head. The crown of the head is where the head begins to curve downward.

Commission. The Massachusetts State Athletic Commission as established by M.G.L. c. 22, § 12.

Exhibition. Organized presentation or demonstration of unarmed combat, the results of which are not officially recorded or recognized as part of a participating unarmed combatant's record.

Kickboxing. A form of unarmed combat that includes punching and kicking above the belt only.

Manager. A person who:

(a) for compensation, undertakes to represent the interests of another person, by contract, agreement or other arrangement, for purposes of procuring, arranging or conducting a professional contest or exhibition in which such person is to participate as an unarmed combatant or in directing or controlling the unarmed combat activities of an unarmed combatant.

(b) Manager does not include a duly licensed attorney if his or her participation in such activities is restricted solely to his or her legal representation of the interests of an unarmed combatant as his or her client.

Match. A contest of combat between two unarmed combatants, the results of which are officially recorded and recognized as part of a participating unarmed combatant's record.

Medical Board. The Medical Advisory Board.

Mixed Martial Arts. As defined in M.G.L. c. 147, § 32, any form of unarmed combat involving the use of a combination of techniques including, but not limited to, grappling, kicking and striking, commonly associated with boxing, kickboxing, wrestling and various disciplines of the martial arts including, but not limited to, karate, kung fu, tae kwon do, Jiu-Jitsu or any combination thereof.

Prize. Something offered or won as an award for superiority or excellence in competition such as a belt, trophy, or other tangible award.

Program. An event at which one or more unarmed combat competitions are scheduled which require licensure pursuant to M.G.L. c. 147, § 32.

Promoter. Any person who produces or stages any match or exhibition.

Purse. The financial guarantee or any other remuneration for which unarmed combatants are participating in a match or exhibition and includes the unarmed combatant's share of any payment received for the exploitation of the radio broadcasting, television, pay-per view, motion picture, or other broadcasting rights.

5.01: continued

Respondent. A person against whom a complaint has been filed pursuant to 523 CMR.

Ring Official. Any person who performs an official function during a match or exhibition.

Southeast Asian Kickboxing. A form of unarmed combat that includes punching and kicking above and below the belt; e.g. Muay Thai, Kun Khmer, Tomoi, and Lethwei.

Sparring Match. Unarmed combat wherein the participants may or may not wear protective gear, the results of which are not officially recorded or recognized as part of a participating unarmed combatant's record.

Trainer. Any person primarily responsible for the teaching, conditioning, and instructing of an unarmed combatant.

Unarmed Combat. As defined in M.G.L. c. 147, § 32, boxing, mixed martial arts, karate, or any form of competition in which a blow is usually struck which may reasonably be expected to inflict injury and no weapon is used; provided that "unarmed combat" shall not include professional wrestling.

Unarmed Combatant. Any person who engages in unarmed combat in a match or exhibition, whether or not the person receives remuneration.

5.02: Application

The provisions of 523 CMR shall apply to all matches, exhibitions, and programs of unarmed combat that require licensure pursuant to M.G.L. c. 147, § 32 and sanctioned by the Commission. Unless expressly limited to professional or amateur contests, all provisions are presumed to apply to both professional and amateur contests or contestants. Amateur sanctioning organizations approved by the Commission are subject to 523 CMR 19.00: *Amateur Contests and Exhibitions Held by Amateur Sanctioning Organizations* requirements unless the Commission directs otherwise.

5.03: Variances

The Commission may, at its sole discretion, grant a variance from any provision of 523 CMR for any cause deemed sufficient by the Commission. Variances must be requested in writing on a form approved by the Commission, and each request must specifically cite those provisions of 523 CMR from which the applicant is requesting relief.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

523 CMR 5.00: M.G.L. c. 147, § 46.



## 523 CMR 6.00: LICENSING AND REGISTRATION

## Section .

- 6.01: General Licensing Requirements: Application; Conditions and Agreements; False Statements; Proof of Identity; Appearance Before Commission; Fee for Issuance or Renewal; Period of Validity
- 6.02: Physical and Medical Examinations and Tests for Professional and Amateur Unarmed Combatants
- 6.03: Application by an Amateur for a License as a Professional Unarmed Combatant
- 6.04: Application for License as a Promoter
- 6.05: Application for License as a Second
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- 6.07: Manager or Trainer May Act as Second Without Second's License
- 6.08: Application for License as a Referee, Judge, Timekeeper, Scorekeeper and Ringside Physician
- 6.09: Application for License as a Matchmaker
- 6.10: Applicants, Licensees and Officials Must Submit Material to Commission as Directed
- 6.11: Grounds for Denial of Application for License
- 6.12: Application for New License or Petition for Reinstatement of License after Denial, Revocation or Suspension
- 6.13: Effect of Expiration of License on Jurisdiction of Commission

6.01: General Licensing Requirements: Application; Conditions and Agreements; False Statements; Proof of Identity; Appearance Before Commission; Fee for Issuance or Renewal; Period of Validity

(1) An application for a license as any of the following must be made in writing on a form supplied by the Commission and signed by the applicant under the pains and penalties of perjury. A license shall not be issued to the applicant until the applicant has submitted a completed application evidencing all requirements of 523 CMR. A ring official may be duly licensed in a professional and amateur capacity. If amateur ring official licensure is sought, the application shall include documentation evidencing that the individual has been certified or otherwise approved to hold the position for which they are applying by a sanctioning organization approved by the Commission under 523 CMR 13.00: *Amateur Contests and Exhibitions Held by Amateur Sanctioning Organizations*.

- (a) Professional or amateur unarmed combatant in boxing, mixed martial arts, kickboxing, Southeast Asian kickboxing or other recognized unarmed combat;
- (b) Promoter;
- (c) Matchmaker;
- (d) Manager;
- (e) Second;
- (f) Trainer;
- (g) Referee;
- (h) Judge;
- (i) Timekeeper;
- (j) Physician; or
- (k) Scorekeeper.

(2) Any false statement in an application submitted to the Commission shall be deemed grounds for any of the following:

- (a) denial of the application;
- (b) if the license has already been issued, immediate revocation of the license followed by hearing upon request;
- (c) referral of the matter to the appropriate law enforcement authority for prosecution.

(3) All applications for licensure shall be accompanied by a government issued identification bearing the applicant's photograph. Before issuing a license, the Commission or its staff may, when deemed appropriate, require an applicant to provide proof of their identity in addition to that required under the applicable licensing requirements.

(4) The Commission may require an applicant to appear before the Commission to answer questions or provide documents in conjunction with an application for a license in addition to those required under the applicable licensing requirements.

## 6.01: continued

- (5) The fee for issuance or renewal of a license shall be included with the application as provided by M.G.L. c. 7, § 3B.
- (6) All licenses issued pursuant to 523 CMR 6.00 except for professional or amateur unarmed combatant licenses under 523 CMR 6.01(6)(a) shall be valid for 12 months from the date of issuance unless otherwise suspended or revoked by the Commission. Professional or amateur unarmed combatant licenses are valid for one event only. The renewal of any license is not automatic. The Commission will consider the applicant's past performance and abilities in evaluating an application for renewal.
- (a) License Extension - Military Service. If the licensee is on active duty with the armed forces of the United States, as defined in M.G.L. c. 4, § 7 clause forty-third, the license shall remain valid until the licensee is released from active duty and for a period of not less than 90 days following that release. For 523 CMR 6.01(6)(a) to apply, the licensee must be given an Honorable Discharge, a General Discharge, or an Under Other than Honorable Conditions (UOTHC) Discharge as noted on their discharge and separation papers.
- (7) The license holder shall have the responsibility of reporting any change of mailing address, email address, and/or change of circumstance to the Commission. The information on file at the Commission shall be deemed accurate for purposes of notification unless changed by the license holder.
- (8) In accordance with M.G.L. c. 147, § 35, no license shall be issued to any individual younger than 18 years old except as provided by M.G.L. c. 147, § 39.

6.02: Physical and Medical Examinations and Tests for Professional and Amateur Unarmed Combatants

- (1) Prior to issuance of a license, all unarmed combatants shall undergo the physical and medical examinations and tests set forth in 523 CMR 6.02(2). In addition, the Commission shall have the discretion at any time to order an unarmed combatant to undergo any physical and medical examination or test that may be advisable to protect the unarmed combatant's physical health and safety. During such examinations and tests, unarmed combatants must reveal all vital facts relating to the unarmed combatant's physical condition to the examining physician. Concealing any vital facts shall be cause for suspension or revocation of the individual's license.
- (2) License Examinations. As a prerequisite to licensure, all unarmed combatants 18 years of age or older shall provide documentation demonstrating that they have undergone the following medical tests and examinations. Each test or examination must be performed by a licensed physician within one year of the event for which the license is sought unless a different timeframe is noted. The record of each test or examination must include an acknowledgement from the examining physician that they are aware that the individual is an unarmed combatant and that they are physically fit to compete insofar as the specific test or examination pertains.
- (a) physical examination to determine whether the unarmed combatant is physically fit to compete;
  - (b) an electrocardiogram (EKG) within one year of the event for which a first license is sought, then within five years of the event for which every subsequent license is sought;
  - (c) testing for HIV, Hepatitis B sAg, and Hepatitis C ab;
  - (d) a dilated eye examination by an optometrist or ophthalmologist. No person who has undergone LASIK surgery may be licensed without medical clearance from an optometrist or ophthalmologist; (A person who has undergone LASEK or PRK (photorefractive keratectomy) may be licensed.)
  - (e) a brain CT or brain MRI within five years of the event for which the license is sought.
- (3) No earlier than one day prior to a scheduled event, all female fighters shall provide satisfactory proof to a Commission approved physician that they are not pregnant.
- (4) The Commission or its designee may refuse to allow anyone other than the unarmed combatant or a manager to submit physical and medical examinations and tests required by 523 CMR 6.02(2).

6.03: Application by an Amateur for a License as a Professional Unarmed Combatant

A person who engages in unarmed combat as an amateur may apply to become a professional unarmed combatant in Massachusetts by:

- (1) Filing an application for professional licensure in accordance with 523 CMR 6.01 and 6.02, that includes a professional debut form containing, but not limited to, the following information:
  - (a) attestation of competency from two individuals with personal knowledge relative to the applicant's training regimen and fitness to compete, signed under the pains and penalties of perjury, at least one of whom must be the combatant's trainer who holds a valid trainer's license issued under 523 CMR 6.00 or by another state Commission;
  - (b) record as an amateur;
  - (c) list of all amateur contests including date, location, opponent, and result; and
  - (d) name, address, and contact for both attesting individuals required under 523 CMR 6.03(2)(a).

6.04: Application for License as a Promoter

A person applying for or renewing a license as a promoter shall submit an application on a form provided by the Commission. The application for licensure submitted by the applicant shall include:

- (a) A copy of the bond required pursuant to M.G.L. c. 147, § 34 and 523 CMR 10.01: *Surety Bond*;
- (b) Financial information showing sufficient ability to compensate licensed unarmed combatants, officials, public safety personnel and other necessary participants in a licensed event on a form provided by the Commission;
- (c) Statement as to knowledge of and experience with the promotion of unarmed combatant contests or exhibitions.

6.05: Application for License as a Second

A person applying for a license as a second shall submit an application on a form provided by the Commission. The application for licensure shall detail the applicant's background and experience in unarmed combat. The Commission may require an applicant to appear before it for the purpose of reviewing the application. Additionally, a person seeking to tend to cuts and lacerations may be required to demonstrate knowledge relative to the use of permissible coagulants.

6.06: Application for License as a Manager or Trainer

A person applying for a license as a manager or trainer shall submit an application on a form provided by the Commission. The application for licensure shall detail the applicant's background and experience in unarmed combat. The Commission may require an applicant to appear before it for the purpose of reviewing the application.

6.07: Manager or Trainer May Act as Second Without Second's License

A manager or trainer licensed by the Commission may act as a second without having a second's license.

6.08: Application for License as a Referee, Judge, Timekeeper, Scorekeeper and Ringside Physician

To qualify for a license as a referee, judge, timekeeper, scorekeeper or ringside physician, a person must submit an application on a form provided by the Commission demonstrating the following:

- (1) They possess the background and experience necessary to perform the functions of the respective position; and
- (2) (for judges and referees only) They are either certified to perform their respective duty by either the Commission or other organization approved by the Commission, or that they hold the same license in good standing in another jurisdiction and have a demonstrated track record of competent work; and

6.08: continued

(3) (for judges and referees only) They have not fought in an unarmed combat event within one year of the date of application. An applicant may have been licensed as an unarmed combatant within one year of the application, so long as he or she has not fought within one year of the application; and

(4) (for ringside physicians only) that they have been licensed to practice medicine for at least three years and remain in good standing with the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine.

6.09: Application for License as a Matchmaker

A person applying for a license as a matchmaker shall submit an application on a form provided by the Commission. The application for licensure shall detail the applicant's background and experience in unarmed combat. Further, where possible, the application shall include a list of all events for which the applicant served as matchmaker dating back either two years or five events.

6.10: Applicants, Licensees and Officials Must Submit Material to Commission as Directed

Any ring official, any person licensed by the Commission, and any applicant for a license must submit to the Commission any forms, records and statements at the times and manner as directed by the Commission. Failure to do so may result in denial or revocation of the applicable license. The Commission may also require the applicant to pass a written examination.

6.11: Grounds for Denial of Application for License

The Commission may deny an application for licensure or renewal of a license if:

(1) it finds that the applicant has performed any act which would, if performed by a licensee, subject the licensee to discipline pursuant to 523 CMR 20.00: *Prohibited Acts; Disciplinary Actions* or 21.00: *Disciplinary Proceedings*;

(2) pursuant to M.G.L. c. 147, § 35, the Commission is not satisfied that the applicant possesses the ability to safely and competently compete or execute the duties of the position for which they have applied, including a lack of requisite skill for unarmed combatants;

(3) it is determined that false information was provided on the application;

(4) the applicant fails to disclose information known to them relative to the medical condition of an unarmed combatant, including themselves, as required by 523 CMR 6.02;

(5) (for an unarmed combatant) the applicant has suffered cerebral hemorrhage and has not been cleared by a medical practitioner after subsequent testing satisfactory to the Commission.

6.12: Application for New License or Petition for Reinstatement of License after Denial, Revocation or Suspension

(1) Any applicant who has been denied a license by the Commission may not file a similar application until one year after denial by the Commission, unless the Commission specifies otherwise at the time of denial.

(2) A person who has had their license revoked may not petition for reinstatement or apply for a new license until one year after the revocation. If the petitioner files a petition for reinstatement after the one year period required pursuant to 523 CMR 6.14(2), and the Commission denies the request, the petitioner may not petition again for reinstatement until one year after the denial unless the Commission specifies otherwise at the time of revocation.

(3) A person who has had their license suspended for a period of one year or less may not file a petition for reinstatement or an application for a new license until the period of the suspension has expired unless the Commission specifies otherwise at the time of suspension.

6.12: continued

- (4) The Commission may deny a petition or application that is not filed in accordance with 523 CMR 6.00 without a hearing.

6.13: Effect of Expiration of License on Jurisdiction of Commission

The expiration of a license does not deprive the Commission of jurisdiction to:

- (1) Proceed with an investigation of the licensee;
- (2) Proceed with an action or disciplinary proceeding against the licensee;
- (3) Render a decision to suspend or revoke the license; or
- (4) Otherwise discipline the licensee.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

523 CMR 6.00: M.G.L. c. 147, § 46.

NON-TEXT PAGE

523 CMR 7.00: MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD

Section

7.01: Establishment, Purpose, Duties

7.01: Establishment, Purpose, Duties

In acknowledgment of the diverse health and safety issues surrounding unarmed combative sports, in an effort to further enhance the safety of all participants in the sports in Massachusetts, the Commission shall establish a Medical Advisory Board to assist and advise it relative to all medical issues. To those ends, the Board shall be established and function subject to the following:

- (1) The Board shall consist of at least three members to be appointed by majority vote of the Commission, all of whom shall be licensed physicians or licensed medical professionals. Each member shall be appointed to serve for a term of two years and shall serve at the pleasure of the Commission. The Commission shall designate one member as chairman of the Board.
- (2) The Board shall attend at least one regularly scheduled Commission meeting per year.
- (3) The Board shall apprise the Commission of all contemporary, appropriate medical standards for the physical and mental examination of unarmed combatants necessary for licensure.
- (4) The Board shall advise the Commission as to the physical fitness of an unarmed combatant, if requested.
- (5) The Board shall review the manner in which the Commission accepts and reviews medical records required to be submitted to the Commission and make recommendations for improvement, if requested.
- (6) The Board shall review 523 CMR and/or the Commission's practices and make any recommendations which it deems necessary to protect the health and welfare of unarmed combatants in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- (7) Any action taken by the Board must be approved by majority vote.
- (8) In addition to attending one regular Commission meeting per year under 523 CMR 7.01(2), the Board shall meet at least once a year in order to fulfill its duties listed in 523 CMR 7.01(1) through (7). The Board shall also convene at any time requested by the Commission and review any issue forwarded to it by the Commission.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

523 CMR 7.00: M.G.L. c. 147, § 46.

NON-TEXT PAGE



523 CMR: STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

523 CMR 8.00: IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR PROFESSIONAL BOXING AND MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

Section

8.01: Professional Boxing and Mixed Martial Arts: Issuance of Identification Card; Disciplinary Action for Falsification or Misuse of Identification Card

8.01: Professional Boxing and Mixed Martial Arts: Issuance of Identification Card; Disciplinary Action for Falsification or Misuse of Identification Card

(1) The Commission will issue an identification card for the purpose of registration pursuant to the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996, 15 U.S.C. §§ 6301 *et. seq.*, to each professional boxer who so applies. The Commission will also issue an identification card for the purpose of registration to each professional mixed martial arts combatant who so applies. The boxer or mixed martial arts combatant shall provide a recent photograph for the identification card and any other information that is requested by the Commission. After an identification card is issued, the boxer or mixed martial arts combatant shall provide any information for the identification card that is requested by the Commission, including, but not limited to, a new or more recent photograph. Identification cards must be renewed every four years.

(2) An identification card may not be substituted for the license to engage in unarmed combat.

(3) A boxer or mixed martial arts combatant shall present their identification card to the Commission's representative at the scheduled weigh-in for a contest or exhibition and at any other time ordered by the Commission or its representative. The Commission or its designee may prohibit a boxer or mixed martial artist from participating in a scheduled contest if they fail to present the card.

(4) A person licensed by the Commission is subject to disciplinary action by the Commission if the person knowingly:

- (a) Provides false information for an identification card or falsifies or attempts to falsify an identification card, or aids in such acts;
- (b) Uses or attempts to use an identification card in an unlawful manner or in a manner that is not in the best interests of unarmed combat, or aids in such use; or
- (c) Otherwise violates the provisions of 523 CMR 8.00.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

523 CMR 8.00: M.G.L. c. 147, § 46.

NON-TEXT PAGE

523 CMR 9.00: CONTRACTS AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS IN PROFESSIONAL  
UNARMED COMBAT

Section

- 9.01: Contract Between Manager and Unarmed Combatant
- 9.02: Promoter and Certain Others Prohibited from Acting as Manager of Unarmed Combatant and from Holding Certain Financial Interests
- 9.03: Bout Agreement Between Promoter and Unarmed Combatant: Form; Prohibited Provision
- 9.04: Filing Bout Agreements; Contracts for Rights to Broadcast, Televiser or Take Motion Pictures
- 9.05: Limitations on Promoter Creating Debt on Behalf of or Advancing Money to Unarmed Combatant or Manager
- 9.06: Failure of Unarmed Combatant to Appear for Contest or Exhibition
- 9.07: Payment of Unarmed Combatant
- 9.08: Payment of Officials and Purse
- 9.09: Withholding Payment of Purse Pending Disciplinary Action Against Unarmed Combatant; Duties of Promoter
- 9.10: Payment of Certain Fees for Tickets Sold

9.01: Contract Between Manager and Unarmed Combatant

- (1) No amateur unarmed combatant may enter into a management contract. The Commission may refuse to honor a contract between a manager and an unarmed combatant unless it is filed with the Commission at least 72 hours before a scheduled contest or exhibition and it complies with the requirements of 523 CMR 9.00. The Commission will not honor a contract between a manager and an unarmed combatant if the term of the contract is for a period of more than three years.
- (2) A manager may not contract to receive the services of an unarmed combatant under their management for a contest or exhibition which is scheduled to take place after the expiration of the contract.
- (3) The Commission may honor a contract that is not executed and notarized on a form provided by the Commission if the terms of the contract comply with the requirements of 523 CMR 9.01. If the terms of the contract exceed the limitations contained in 523 CMR 9.01, the Commission may honor the contract to the extent of those limitations.
- (4) A manager may not negotiate or sign for contests or exhibitions for an unarmed combatant who is not under contract to him or her. An unarmed combatant who does not have a contract with a licensed manager must sign for his or her own contest or exhibition and sign the receipt for his own purse.
- (5) A manager or managers may not participate separately or collectively in more than 33% of the earnings of the unarmed combatant in the ring.

9.02: Promoter and Certain Others Prohibited from Acting as Manager of Unarmed Combatant and from Holding Certain Financial Interests

An unarmed combatant may not have a promoter or any of its members, stockholders, officials, matchmakers or assistant matchmakers:

- (1) Act directly or indirectly as his or her manager; or
- (2) Hold any financial interest in his or her management or their earnings from contests or exhibitions.

9.03: Bout Agreement Between Promoter and Unarmed Combatant: Form; Prohibited Provision

- (1) Unless given leave by the Commission to do otherwise, the bout agreement between a promoter and an unarmed combatant must be executed on a form provided by the Commission.

9.03: continued

- (2) A bout agreement which provides that an unarmed combatant is to pay for the services of his or her opponent is prohibited.
- (3) The Commission will not recognize bout agreements that violate 15 U.S.C.A. § 6307b.

9.04: Filing Bout Agreements; Contracts for Rights to Broadcast, Televisе or Take Motion Pictures

- (1) A bout agreement between a promoter and an unarmed combatant must be placed on file with the Commission at least three working days before the program unless the Commission or its designee gives special approval for filing the bout agreement closer to the time of weighing in.
- (2) Contracts for the sale, lease or other exploitation of the television, pay-per-view, motion picture or other broadcasting rights of an event must be filed with the Commission at least 48 hours prior to the event in accordance with M.G.L. c. 147, § 40.

9.05: Limitations on Promoter Creating Debt on Behalf of or Advancing Money to Unarmed Combatant or Manager

- (1) A promoter licensed by the Commission shall not directly or indirectly make any loan or advance to an unarmed combatant or a manager without the express written permission of the Commission.
- (2) A promoter shall not, directly or indirectly, create any indebtedness that becomes the obligation of an unarmed combatant or a manager unless the promoter has the express written permission of the Commission for that action.

9.06: Failure of Unarmed Combatant to Appear for Contest or Exhibition

An unarmed combatant who fails to appear for and participate in a contest or exhibition in which they signed a bout agreement to appear, without a written excuse determined to be valid by the Commission or a certificate from a physician approved by the Commission in case of physical disability, is subject to disciplinary action. The Commission will not take action to enforce a bout agreement on behalf of an unarmed combatant that has failed to appear without justification.

9.07: Payment of Unarmed Combatant

An unarmed combatant must be paid in full according to his or her bout agreement and no part of his or her remuneration may be withheld except by order of the Commission pursuant to M.G.L. c. 147, § 36, nor may any part of his or her remuneration be returned through arrangement with their manager to any matchmaker or promoter, except as otherwise provided 523 CMR 9.00.

9.08: Payment of Officials and Purse

- (1) All payment of purses must be made:
  - (a) Immediately after the contest or exhibition; or
  - (b) If the unarmed combatant is to receive a percentage of the net receipts, immediately after that percentage is determined, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.
- (2) Before the start of a contest or exhibition, the promoter shall pay the Commission, all monies owed to ring officials.
- (3) Immediately after the contest or exhibition, the Commission or its designee will release the payments to ring officials and will obtain their signatures on a list in which they acknowledge the payment.

9.09: Withholding Payment of Purse Pending Disciplinary Action Against Unarmed Combatant; Duties of Promoter

(1) At any time before the award of a purse to an unarmed combatant, the Commission may specify any amount which must be retained from the purse of the unarmed combatant and transferred from the promoter to the Commission. The money transferred to the Commission will not be given to the unarmed combatant until the Commission determines that no penalty will be prescribed pursuant to 523 CMR for any action or condition of the unarmed combatant. Any amount so specified is not a limitation upon the amount of a penalty which may be prescribed pursuant to 523 CMR.

(2) If the Commission orders any amount of the purse of the unarmed combatant to be transferred from the promoter to the Commission pursuant to 523 CMR 9.09(1), the promoter shall transfer the money to the Commission by use of a cashier's check made payable to the Commission, unless the Commission approves another method for the transfer of the money.

9.10: Payment of Certain Fees for Tickets Sold

(1) In accordance with M.G.L. c. 147, § 40, every promoter holding or conducting a program shall, before the commencement of the final feature bout of the event, pay to the state treasurer via the Commission a sum equal to 4% of the total gross receipts from the sale of tickets or from admission fees.

(2) In accordance with M.G.L. c. 147, § 40A, every promoter holding or conducting a program shall, before the commencement of the feature bout of the event, pay to the state treasurer via the Commission, in addition to the payment required under 523 CMR 9.10(1), a sum equal to 1% of the total gross receipts from the sale of tickets or from admission fees, subject to the exceptions and requirements of M.G.L. c. 147, § 40A.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

523 CMR 9.00: M.G.L. c. 147, § 46.

NON-TEXT PAGE

## 523 CMR 10.00: ARRANGING AND PROMOTING PROGRAMS OF UNARMED COMBAT

## Section

- 10.01: Surety Bond
- 10.02: Event License: Submission and Approval of Program and Date; Content; Payment of Fee; Cancellation of Program
- 10.03: Multiple Requests for Event License on the Same Date
- 10.04: Arrangement of Contest or Exhibition; Use of Licensed Matchmaker by Promoter
- 10.05: Minimum Number of Rounds for Program
- 10.06: Maximum Number of Unarmed Combatants for Program
- 10.07: Certain Persons Retained by Promoter must Have Licenses
- 10.08: Selection, Approval and Fees for Ring Officials
- 10.09: Protest of Assignment of Referees or Judges
- 10.10: Certain Officials Deemed Independent Contractors; Payment of Fees by Promoters to Commission; Payment of Officials by Commission
- 10.11: Submission of Fight Card; Change or Substitution
- 10.12: Unarmed Combatant Not Used in Program
- 10.13: Limitations on Types of Beverage Containers, Plates Used at Programs

10.01: Surety Bond

In accordance with M.G.L. c. 147, § 34, no event license shall be granted unless the promoter has executed and filed with the commission a bond in a penal sum of \$50,000, with such surety or sureties as shall be satisfactory to the Commission, running to the Commission, conditioned upon the payment to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts of the sums mentioned in M.G.L. c. 147, § 40, and upon faithful compliance by the licensee with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 147, §§ 32 through 47, 523 CMR, and with such other laws of the Commonwealth as may be applicable to anything done by the licensee in pursuance of the license. The bond shall also provide for forfeiture to the Commonwealth, recoverable at the suit of the attorney general, of such sum, not exceeding \$10,000, as may be stipulated in the bond for each case of non-compliance.

10.02: Event License: Submission and Approval of Program and Date; Content; Payment of Fee; Cancellation of Program

- (1) Except as otherwise provided in 523 CMR, a promoter shall not hold a program of unarmed combat required to be licensed pursuant to M.G.L. c. 147, § 32 unless before the program is held:
  - (a) The promoter submits to the Commission an application for an event license on a form provided by the Commission; and
  - (b) The Commission approves the application and the date for the program.
- (2) A written request for an event license must include, without limitation:
  - (a) The proposed site for the event;
  - (b) The proposed date of the event;
  - (c) A copy of the certificate of inspection issued by the municipality for proposed site;
  - (d) A copy of the certificate of insurance. In accordance with M.G.L. c. 147, § 39B, the promoter of an event shall take out a policy of accident insurance on each contestant participating in the match or exhibition in the amount of \$5,000 to compensate him for medical and hospital expenses incurred as the result of injuries received in such match or exhibition and a policy in the amount of \$50,000 to be paid to the estate of the deceased contestant in the event of death to the contestant resulting from participation in the match or exhibition. The premiums on the policies shall be paid by the promoter. The terms of the insurance coverage must not require the contestant to pay a deductible for the medical, surgical or hospital care for injuries he sustains while engaged in a contest or exhibition.
  - (e) The name of the licensed matchmaker for the event;
  - (f) Indication as to whether the program will be televised or otherwise broadcast;
  - (g) The event license fee.
- (3) If the program is cancelled by the promoter, the application fee shall be forfeited. The fee may be applied to a subsequent event if it is scheduled to be held within 30 days of the originally scheduled event.

10.02: continued

- (4) The promoter of a program of unarmed combat shall submit a completed application for licensure of an event in accordance with 523 CMR 10.02 at least 30 days prior to the scheduled date of the event.

10.03: Multiple Requests for Event License on the Same Date

If the Commission receives more than one request for an event license submitted pursuant to 523 CMR 10.02 for the same date, the Commission may issue a license for both events provided that all applications are complete and the Commission deems it to be in the best interests of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to license more than one event. In making this determination, the Commission shall consider, amongst other things, the geographic locations of the proposed events and the availability of Commission staff and officials. In the event that it is deemed contrary to the interests of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to license more than one event on one date, a license will be issued to the first applicant that submits a complete application.

10.04: Arrangement of Contest or Exhibition; Use of Licensed Matchmaker by Promoter

A contest or exhibition may not be arranged on behalf of any promoter except by a licensed matchmaker or the promoter themselves.

10.05: Minimum Number of Rounds for Program

Unless otherwise approved by the Commission, a promoter shall not schedule fewer than:

- (1) 28 rounds of boxing, kickboxing or any other form of unarmed combat on any one fight card that consists of contests or exhibitions of boxing, kickboxing, or other forms of unarmed combat except mixed martial arts.
- (2) 20 rounds of mixed martial arts on any one program of unarmed combat that consists of contests or exhibitions of mixed martial arts.

10.06: Maximum Number of Unarmed Combatants for Program

A promoter shall not schedule any one program of unarmed combat which utilizes more than 32 unarmed combatants unless a different limit is approved by the Commission.

10.07: Certain Persons Retained by Promoter must Have Licenses

A promoter shall not retain a person for any of the following positions unless they are licensed by the Commission:

- (1) Unarmed combatant; or
- (2) Matchmaker.

10.08: Selection, Approval and Fees for Ring Officials

- (1) The Commission, or its designee, will select and approve all ring officials.
- (2) The promoter may select the announcer for a contest or exhibition.
- (3) Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 147, § 36, the Commission will set the fees that ring officials are entitled to receive unless otherwise mandated by law.



10.09: Protest of Assignment of Referees or Judges

If any licensee of the Commission protests the assignment of a particular referee or judge, the protesting licensee will be given a hearing by the Commission if time permits. If time does not permit, the matter will be heard by two Commissioners or a Commissioner and the Chief Deputy in order to make such disposition of the protest as the facts may justify. Protests not made in a timely manner may be summarily rejected.

10.10: Certain Officials Deemed Independent Contractors: Payment of Fees by Promoters to Commission: Payment of Officials by Commission

- (1) For purposes of 523 CMR, ring officials shall be deemed to be independent contractors of the Commission.
- (2) A promoter shall pay to the Commission the total fees set by the Commission for all persons whom the Commission directs to officiate in a contest or exhibition promoted by that promoter.
- (3) The Commission will pay the money collected pursuant to 523 CMR 10.10 to the ring officials at the conclusion of an event.

10.11: Submission of Fight Card: Change or Substitution

- (1) The promoter of a program of unarmed combat shall submit a proposed fight card for a licensed event at least ten days prior to the scheduled date of the event. The fight card, which shall be subject to the approval of the Commission, or its designee shall be submitted on a form provided by the Commission. The promoter or matchmaker shall notify the Commission of any proposed changes or substitutions of unarmed combatants on the approved fight card. Changes and substitutions shall be subject to approval by the Commission. All fighters on a proposed fight card shall either hold an unarmed combatant's license issued by the Commission or submit an application for licensure as an unarmed combatant in accordance with 523 CMR 6.00: *Licensing and Registration* no later than seven days prior to the scheduled event, unless a shorter time frame is approved by the Commission or its designee for just cause.
- (2) Fights shall be put together by the matchmaker and shall be evenly matched. The fight card shall be signed by the matchmaker attesting that the fights have been as evenly matched as possible to the best of their skill and ability.
- (3) In accordance with M.G.L. c. 147, § 39A, no unarmed combatant who has been knocked out, technically or otherwise, or lost a contest by way of submission, six or more times in the preceding 12 months shall take part in a match or exhibition until they have been examined and deemed fit to compete by a physician approved by the Commission.

10.12: Unarmed Combatant Not Used in Program

If a promoter enters into a bout agreement with an unarmed combatant for a contest or exhibition in a program of unarmed combat, but the promoter, without reasonable cause as determined by the Commission, does not use the unarmed combatant in that program, the unarmed combatant must be compensated as provided for in the bout agreement.

10.13: Limitations on Types of Beverage Containers, Plates Used at Programs

- (1) All drinks at a program of unarmed combat must be dispensed in paper or plastic cups (or other containers that cannot reasonably be used as dangerous projectiles per the discretion of the Commission).

10.13: continued

- (2) Plates provided for patrons at a program of unarmed combat must be made from lightweight, nonflammable and nontoxic materials.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

523 CMR 10.00: M.G.L. c. 147, § 46.

523 CMR 11.00: TICKETS AND ADMISSIONS

Section

- 11.01: Tickets: Person Sold Right of Admission must Be Provided with Ticket
- 11.02: Contents of Ticket
- 11.03: Complimentary Tickets: Exclusion from Calculation under M.G.L. c. 147, §§ 40 and 40A
- 11.04: Issuance of Complimentary and Press Tickets
- 11.05: Admission of Certain Ring Officials; Persons Authorized to Use Commission Identification; Access to Site of Program and Dressing Rooms
- 11.06: Reservation of Area for Use by Commission
- 11.07: Tickets Sold at Reduced Rate: Actual Price Charged must Be Stamped on Ticket and Stub
- 11.08: Tickets: Removal and Possession of Stub
- 11.09: Readmission

11.01: Tickets: Person Sold Right of Admission must Be Provided with Ticket

(1) The right of admission to a program of unarmed combat must not be sold to a person unless that person is provided with a ticket.

(2) No person shall be admitted to an event unless that person is either an unarmed combatant scheduled to compete at the event or provides at the entrance to the venue either a ticket, Commission issued identification, or identification issued by the promoter indicating that the individual is an employee or independent contractor working for the promoter or a member of the media approved by the promoter to attend the program. The Commission shall station a Deputy Commissioner at all entrances to the venue to ensure compliance with 523 CMR 11.00.

11.02: Contents of Ticket

Every ticket must have the price, name of the promoter and date of the program of unarmed combat plainly on it and must adequately indicate that the promoter is complying with 523 CMR.

11.03: Complimentary Tickets: Exclusion from Calculation under M.G.L. c. 147, §§ 40 and 40A

Complementary tickets shall not be included in the calculation under M.G.L. c. 147, §§ 40 and 40A. The Commission will not recognize complimentary tickets in excess of 15% of the total tickets collected at an event for the purposes of the exclusion.

11.04: Issuance of Complimentary and Press Tickets

(1) Each promoter shall perform the following duties in relation to the issuance of complimentary tickets or those issued at a reduced price:

- (a) Each complimentary ticket must be clearly marked "COMPLIMENTARY". Failure to do so will result in the full ticket price being used for purposes of computing the fee required to be paid pursuant to M.G.L. c. 147, §§ 40 and 40A.
- (b) Each ticket issued to a journalist must be clearly marked "PRESS". No more tickets may be issued to journalists than will permit comfortable seating in the press area.
- (c) Seating at the press tables or in the press area must be limited to journalists who are actually covering the contest or exhibition and to other persons designated by the Commission.
- (d) A list of passes issued to journalists must be submitted to the Commission upon request by the Commission.

11.05: Admission of Certain Ring Officials: Persons Authorized to Use Commission Identification: Access to Site of Program and Dressing Rooms

(1) The promoter of a program of unarmed combat shall only admit to such program ring official assigned by the Commission to work at the event who present their commission issued identification evidencing such status.

## 523 CMR: STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

### 11.05: continued

- (2) The promoter of a program and officials of the venue shall allow the Commission, Commission staff, and Deputy Commissioners full access to the site of the event and dressing rooms upon the showing of their commission issued identification.

### 11.06: Reservation of Area for Use by Commission

- (1) For every program of unarmed combat, the promoter of the program shall reserve an area consisting of at least one whole side of the ring, from the ring apron to a reasonable distance as determined by the Commission back from the ring apron, for use by the Commission during the program.
- (2) If a program of unarmed combat consists of contests or exhibitions of mixed martial arts held in a fenced area, the promoter shall reserve an area equivalent to the area described in 523 CMR 11.06(1) for use by the Commission during the program.

### 11.07: Tickets Sold at Reduced Rate: Actual Price Charged must Be Stamped on Ticket and Stub

Any ticket for a program of unarmed combat sold for less than the price printed on the ticket must be overstamp with the actual price charged. The overstamp must be placed on the printed face of the ticket as well as the stub retained by the holder of the ticket. Failure to do so will result in the full ticket price being used for purposes of computing the fee required to be paid pursuant to M.G.L. c. 147, §§ 40 and 40A.

### 11.08: Tickets: Removal and Possession of Stub

- (1) A holder of a ticket for a program of unarmed combat must not be allowed:
  - (a) To pass through the gate of the premises where the program is being held unless his or her ticket is separated from the stub or otherwise marked or inventoried as having been presented at the gate; or
  - (b) To occupy a seat unless they are in possession of the stub or marked ticket.
- (2) For the purposes of 523 CMR 11.08:
  - (a) "Stub" means that part of the ticket retained by a person entering the arena after the ticket has been collected, whether paper or electronic.
  - (b) "Ticket" means that part of the ticket, actual or electronically inventoried, retained by the promoter upon a person's entrance to the arena.
- (3) If the tickets are of the electronic variety, all tickets must be properly scanned prior to admission into the venue.

### 11.09: Readmission

Once an individual gains entry to a venue by way of ticket, the individual shall only be readmitted after leaving if the individual presents a ticket stub or other evidence of admission and a notation by way of hand stamp or other similar marking indicating that they have been permitted to re-enter.

## REGULATORY AUTHORITY

523 CMR 11.00: M.G.L. c. 147, § 46.

523 CMR 12.00: FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Section

- 12.01: Sanitation
- 12.02: Provision of Ambulance and Medical Personnel; Alternative Medical Transport; Notice of Program to Emergency Services, Facilities and Personnel; Police Officers
- 12.03: Provision of Emergency and Other Equipment
- 12.04: Dressing Rooms
- 12.05: Requirements for Gloves
- 12.06: Bandages for Hands of Unarmed Combatant
- 12.07: Equipment of Chief Second
- 12.08: Requirements for Boxing or Kickboxing Ring
- 12.09: Requirements for Mixed Martial Arts Ring or Fenced Area
- 12.10: Requirements for Bell or Gong

12.01: Sanitation

- (1) Each promoter is responsible for and must correct any violation of 523 CMR or the Department of Public Health regarding the sanitary condition of dressing rooms, showers, water bottles, towels or other equipment.
- (2) The promoter shall be responsible to supply bio-waste disposable bags in each dressing room and ring or cage side. In addition, the promoter shall be responsible to ensure that the event venue can provide adequate running water essential to hand washing and the provision of temporary or emergency treatment as required by 523 CMR 13.07(3).
- (3) Physicians and representatives of the Commission shall make a particular examination before or during each program of unarmed combat to discover any violation of 523 CMR or obvious unsanitary condition, and any such violation must be reported to the Commission immediately.

12.02: Provision of Ambulance and Medical Personnel; Alternative Medical Transport; Notice of Program to Emergency Services, Facilities and Personnel; Police Officers

- (1) A program of unarmed combat must not be held unless an ambulance and two persons certified by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as advanced emergency medical technicians certified to provide advanced life support (ALS) are present at the site of the program and able and available to transport an unarmed combatant to a medical facility.
- (2) If the ambulance or advanced emergency medical technicians leave the site of the program to transport an unarmed combatant to a medical facility, the program of unarmed combat must not continue until another ambulance or replacements for the advanced emergency medical technicians are present and available.
- (3) If an ambulance is not available because of the location of the site, the highest level of medical transport in that locale must be present and able and available to transport an unarmed combatant to a medical facility. If the advanced emergency medical technicians are not available because of the location of the site, two persons with the highest level of training as emergency medical technicians in that locale must be present and able and available to treat an unarmed combatant.
- (4) The medical personnel described in 523 CMR 12.02:
  - (a) Must be designated to render service only to the unarmed combatants in the program.
  - (b) Shall position themselves and their equipment in a location at or near the ring or, if the program is being held in a fenced area, at or near the fenced area, that they and the ringside physician deem appropriate.
- (5) For purposes of 523 CMR 12.02, a program of unarmed combat begins with the commencement of the first bout and ends when the last unarmed combatant leaves the site of the program.

12.02: continued

(6) The promoter shall arrange for the presence of at least two police officers at the event, or as otherwise directed by the Commission. No event may proceed or continue on once begun without the presence of the police officers.

12.03: Provision of Emergency and Other Equipment

Each promoter of a program of unarmed combat shall arrange to have emergency equipment on the premises where the program is to be held. The emergency equipment must include, but is not limited to:

- (1) Blankets;
- (2) A stretcher;
- (3) A bottle of smelling salts;
- (4) Bandages;
- (5) Surgical tape;
- (6) Splints;
- (7) A pair of scissors;
- (8) A soft collar and a hard collar;
- (9) An airway;
- (10) Sterile surgical gloves; and
- (11) At least one one-piece warmup mat per dressing room.

12.04: Dressing Rooms

(1) On the day of a contest or exhibition, only the following people are allowed in the dressing room of an unarmed combatant:

- (a) The manager of the unarmed combatant;
- (b) The seconds of the unarmed combatant;
- (c) Any representative of the promoter; and
- (d) Any representative of the Commission.

(2) The promoter shall furnish security at the entrance to the dressing rooms to enforce 523 CMR 12.04.

(3) The promoter of a contest or exhibition between female unarmed combatants shall provide them with adequate dressing rooms separate from the male competitors.

12.05: Requirements for Gloves

The gloves used in a contest or exhibition must meet the following requirements and be delivered to the Commission one hour prior to the commencement of the first match of the event:

(1) The gloves must be examined by the representative of the Commission and the referee. If padding in any glove is found to be misplaced or lumpy or if any glove is found to be imperfect, the glove must be changed before the contest or exhibition starts. No breaking, roughing or twisting of gloves is permitted.

(2) If the gloves to be used have been used before, they must be whole, clean and in sanitary condition. The gloves are subject to inspection by the referee and a representative of the Commission. If a glove is found to be unfit, it must be replaced with a glove that meets the requirements of 523 CMR 12.05.

12.05: continued

- (3) Each promoter must have an extra set of gloves of the appropriate weight available to be used in case a glove is broken or otherwise damaged during the course of a contest or exhibition.
- (4) In accordance with M.G.L. c. 147, § 38, for contests or exhibitions of boxing and kickboxing, whether professional or amateur, each unarmed combatant must wear gloves which weigh not less than eight ounces and not more than ten ounces, except that the Commission will set the weight of the gloves to be used in a championship contest. All gloves must have the distal portion of the thumb attached to the body of the glove so as to minimize the possibility of injury to an opponent's eye.
- (5) In accordance with M.G.L. c. 147, § 38, for contests or exhibitions of mixed martial arts, professional unarmed combatants must wear gloves weighing four ounces and amateur unarmed combatants must wear gloves weighing seven ounces.

12.06: Bandages for Hands of Unarmed Combatant

Bandages are not required, but, where employed shall meet the following requirements:

- (1) Bandages on the hand of an unarmed combatant may not exceed one winding of surgeon's adhesive tape, not over two inches wide, placed directly on the hand to protect the part of the hand near the wrist. The tape shall not touch or cover the knuckles. A single layer of self-adhering sports tape is allowed to secure the wrap.
- (2) A bandage shall be a soft surgical bandage not over two inches wide, held in place by not more than ten feet of surgeon's adhesive tape for each hand. Up to one 15-yard roll of gauze bandage may be used to complete the wrappings for each hand. Strips of tape may be used between the fingers to hold down the bandages.
- (3) Bandages must be applied in the dressing room in the presence of a representative of the Commission and both unarmed combatants. Either unarmed combatant may waive his or her privilege of witnessing the bandaging of his or her opponent's hands.
- (4) At the completion of the hand wrap, each shall be marked by a Deputy Commissioner indicating that it was performed in compliance with 523 CMR 12.06.

12.07: Equipment of Chief Second

- (1) The chief second shall equip themselves with:
  - (a) A clear plastic water bottle;
  - (b) A bucket containing ice;
  - (c) A solution or product of a kind approved by the Commission for stopping hemorrhaging;
  - (d) Adhesive tape;
  - (e) Gauze;
  - (f) Scissors; and
  - (g) One extra mouthpiece.
- (2) No ammonia or other smelling salts type agents may be used in the ring.
- (3) The ringside physician or Commission's representative may, at any time, inspect the contents of the chief second's first-aid kit.

12.08: Requirements for Boxing or Kickboxing Ring

A boxing or kickboxing ring must meet the following requirements:

- (1) The ring must be 20 feet square within the ropes. The ring floor must extend at least 18 inches beyond the ropes. The ring floor must be padded with ensolite or another similar closed-cell foam. Padding must extend beyond the ring ropes and over the edge of the platform, with a top covering of canvas, duck or similar material tightly stretched and laced to the ring platform. Material that tends to gather in lumps or ridges must not be used.

12.08: continued

- (2) The ring platform must not be more than five feet above the floor of the building and must have suitable steps for the use of the unarmed combatants. Ring posts must be made of metal, not more than three inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a height of 58 inches above the ring floor. Ring posts must be at least 18 inches away from the ring ropes.
- (3) There must be four ring ropes, not less than one inch in diameter and wrapped in soft material. The lower rope must be 18 inches above the ring floor.
- (4) Except as otherwise provided in 523 CMR 12.08(5), there must not be any obstruction or object, including, without limitation, a triangular border, on any part of the ring floor.
- (5) There may be one or two triangular borders on the ring apron under the following conditions:
  - (a) There must be a minimum of 24 inches from the edge of the bottom rope to the apron edge.
  - (b) If two triangular borders are being used, both triangular borders must be placed on the same side of the ring.
  - (c) The dimensions of a triangular border may not be more than five inches in height or more than 48 inches in length.
  - (d) The seats immediately behind a triangular border must be raised from the arena floor by an amount equal to the height of the triangular border.
  - (e) A triangular border must be placed at the outermost edge of the apron and secured to the apron floor by Velcro or a similar fastener.
  - (f) A triangular border must be removed immediately upon the request of a representative of the Commission.
  - (g) The promoter must provide the Commission with a letter from the site of the program of unarmed combat stating that the site has no objection to the use of triangular borders.

12.09: Requirements for Mixed Martial Arts Ring or Fenced Area

- (1) Mixed martial arts contests and exhibitions may be held in a ring or in a fenced area.
- (2) A ring used for a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts must meet the following requirements:
  - (a) The ring must be no smaller than 20 feet square and no larger than 32 feet square within the ropes.
  - (b) The ring floor must extend at least 18 inches beyond the ropes. The ring floor must be padded with ensolite or another similar closed-cell foam, with at least a one-inch layer of foam padding. Padding must extend beyond the ring ropes and over the edge of the platform, with a top covering of canvas, duck or similar material tightly stretched and laced to the ring platform. Material that tends to gather in lumps or ridges must not be used.
  - (c) The ring platform must not be more than four feet above the floor of the building and must have suitable steps for the use of the unarmed combatants.
  - (d) Ring posts must be made of metal, not more than three inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to a minimum height of 58 inches above the ring floor, and must be properly padded in a manner approved by the Commission. Ring posts must be at least 18 inches away from the ring ropes.
  - (e) There must be five ring ropes, not less than one inch in diameter and wrapped in soft material. The lowest ring rope must be 12 inches above the ring floor.
  - (f) There must not be any obstruction or object, including, without limitation, a triangular border, on any part of the ring floor.
- (3) There may be one or two triangular borders on the ring apron under the following conditions:
  - (a) There must be a minimum of 24 inches from the edge of the bottom rope to the apron edge.
  - (b) If two triangular borders are being used, both triangular borders must be placed on the same side of the ring.



12.09: continued

- (c) The dimensions of a triangular border may not be more than five inches in height or more than 48 inches in length.
- (d) The seats immediately behind a triangular border must be raised from the arena floor by an amount equal to the height of the triangular border.
- (e) A triangular border must be placed at the outermost edge of the apron and secured to the apron floor by Velcro or a similar fastener.
- (f) A triangular border must be removed immediately upon the request of a representative of the Commission.
- (g) The promoter must provide the Commission with a letter from the site of the program of unarmed combat stating that the site has no objection to the use of triangular borders.

12.10: Requirements for Bell or Gong

There must be a bell, gong, or airhorn at the ring or, if the contest or exhibition is held in a fenced area, at the fenced area. The bell, gong, or airhorn must produce a clear tone easily heard by the unarmed combatants.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

523 CMR 12.00: M.G.L. c. 147, § 46.

NON-TEXT PAGE

523 CMR 13.00: WEIGHT CLASSES, WEIGH-INS, PRE- AND POST-FIGHT PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS, AND MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Section

- 13.01: Boxers: Weight Classes; Weight Differences; Weight Loss after Weigh-in
- 13.02: Mixed Martial Arts Weight Classes; Weight Loss after Weigh-in
- 13.03: Unarmed Combatants Required to Submit to Weigh-in and Physical Examinations
- 13.04: Pre-fight Weigh-in and Physical Examination
- 13.05: Post-fight Examination
- 13.06: Forfeiture for Failure to Make Weight
- 13.07: Duties of Promoter Concerning Physical Examination; Fees for Services of Physician; Provision of Temporary or Emergency Treatment to Unarmed Combatant
- 13.08: Unarmed Combatant must Report Certain Injuries and Illnesses; Physical Examination Required; Payment of Physician
- 13.09: Suspension of Licensee for Medical Reason

13.01: Boxers: Weight Classes; Weight Differences; Weight Loss after Weigh-in

- (1) The weight classes for boxers and the weights for each class are shown in the following schedule:

- (a) Strawweight ..... up to 105 lbs.
- (b) Light-Flyweight ..... over 105 to 108 lbs.
- (c) Flyweight ..... over 108 to 112 lbs.
- (d) Super Flyweight ..... over 112 to 115 lbs.
- (e) Bantamweight ..... over 115 to 118 lbs.
- (f) Super Bantamweight ..... over 118 to 122 lbs.
- (g) Featherweight ..... over 122 to 126 lbs.
- (h) Super Featherweight ..... over 126 to 130 lbs.
- (i) Lightweight ..... over 130 to 135 lbs.
- (j) Super Lightweight ..... over 135 to 140 lbs.
- (k) Welterweight ..... over 140 to 147 lbs.
- (l) Super Welterweight ..... over 147 to 154 lbs.
- (m) Middleweight ..... over 154 to 160 lbs.
- (n) Super Middleweight ..... over 160 to 168 lbs.
- (o) Light-heavyweight ..... over 168 to 175 lbs.
- (p) Cruiserweight ..... over 175 to 195 lbs.
- (q) Heavyweight ..... all over 195 lbs.

- (2) No boxing contest or exhibition may be scheduled, and no boxer may engage in a boxing contest or exhibition, without the approval of the Commission if the difference in weight between boxers exceeds the allowance shown in the following schedule:

- (a) up to 118 lbs ..... not more than 3 lbs.
- (b) 118 lbs.-126 lbs ..... not more than 5 lbs.
- (c) 126 lbs.-135 lbs ..... not more than 7 lbs.
- (d) 135 lbs.-147 lbs ..... not more than 9 lbs.
- (e) 147 lbs.-160 lbs ..... not more than 11 lbs.
- (f) 160 lbs.-175 lbs ..... not more than 12 lbs.
- (g) 175 lbs.-195 lbs ..... not more than 20 lbs.
- (h) 195 lbs. and over ..... no limit.

13.02: Mixed Martial Arts Weight Classes; Weight Loss after Weigh-in

- (1) The weight classes for mixed martial arts combatants and the weights for each class are shown in the following schedule:

- (a) Flyweight ..... up to 125 lbs.
- (b) Bantamweight ..... over 125 to 135 lbs.
- (c) Featherweight ..... over 135 to 145 lbs.
- (d) Lightweight ..... over 145 to 155 lbs.
- (e) Welterweight ..... over 155 to 170 lbs.
- (f) Middleweight ..... over 170 to 185 lbs.

13.02: continued

- (g) Light Heavyweight ..... over 185 to 205 lbs.
- (h) Heavyweight ..... over 205 to 265 lbs.
- (i) Super Heavyweight ..... all over 265 lbs.

13.03: Unarmed Combatants Required to Submit to Weigh-in and Physical Examinations

An unarmed combatant is subject to an order by the Commission to appear at any time to be:

- (1) Weighed; or
- (2) Examined by any physician whom the Commission may designate.

13.04: Pre-fight Weigh-in and Physical Examination

- (1) The Commission must personally weigh-in all unarmed combatants within 36 hours of a scheduled contest. The promoter shall schedule the site, date, and time for the weigh-in and physical examinations which shall be subject to the approval of the Commission. The unarmed combatant must have all weights stripped from their body before they are weighed in, but may wear shorts (and top for females).
- (2) An unarmed combatant who fails to make weight shall be given up to one hour after the weigh-in to lose a maximum of two pounds.
- (3) The Commission may permit a one pound allowance in the contract weight except in the case of a title fight.
- (4) The physician shall examine each unarmed combatant thoroughly before the contest, giving particular attention to the heart, lungs, pulse, blood pressure, eyes, and any indication of hernia. A special in-depth examination shall be made of any symptoms of ill health or physical impairment. The physician shall ask each unarmed combatant about any previous injuries or physical problems and shall note the information obtained on the record. The physician shall certify whether the unarmed combatant's physical condition is sufficient for them to engage in the scheduled match. If the unarmed combatant shows any signs of mental, optical, organic, or other deterioration, the physician shall advise the unarmed combatant of his or her findings and report the same to the Commission. Once so advised by the Commission physician, the unarmed combatant shall not participate in any exhibition until the Commission approves their resumption of unarmed combat.
- (5) If an unarmed combatant fails to appear for the required weigh-in and physical examination, the Commission may deem it sufficient cause for suspending the unarmed combatant's license. Further, if an unarmed combatant does not appear on time for a scheduled weigh in, he or she may be disciplined.
- (6) The Commission may require unarmed combatants to be weighed more than once for any cause deemed sufficient by the Commission.
- (7) A referee assigned to officiate at an event shall undergo a prefight physical examination by a ringside physician assigned to the event prior to the commencement of the first match. The physician shall examine the referee giving particular attention to the heart, lungs, pulse, blood pressure, and eyes. After the examination, the referee will only be allowed to officiate if cleared by the physician.

13.05: Post-fight Examination

After every exhibition, a Commission assigned physician shall examine each unarmed combatant as soon as possible following the fight and before they leave the site of the contest. If it appears that a unarmed combatant is injured, the physician shall attend to the injuries. The physician shall also recommend and arrange for immediate hospitalization whenever deemed necessary. The physician shall report all injuries disclosed in the post-fight examination to the Commission.

13.06: Forfeiture for Failure to Make Weight

- (1) An unarmed combatant who fails to make the weight may, subject to the agreement of his or her opponent, participate in the bout. For professionals, the unarmed combatant who fails to make weight but participates with the opponent's agreement is subject to 25% forfeiture of his or her purse.
- (2) for professionals, failure to make weight by ten pounds or more cancels the bout;
- (3) for amateurs, failure to make weight by five pounds or more cancels the bout.
- (4) Except as otherwise provided in 523 CMR, during the one hour following the time of weighing in, if an unarmed combatant is able to make the weight or weighs one pound or less outside the agreed limits, no forfeit may be imposed or fine assessed upon him or her.

13.07: Duties of Promoter Concerning Physical Examination; Fees for Services of Physician; Provision of Temporary or Emergency Treatment to Unarmed Combatant

- (1) The promoter shall provide the physician designated by the Commission with a suitable place to examine each unarmed combatant at the weigh in.
- (2) The physician is entitled to receive a fee for their services at a contest, exhibition and weigh in as determined by the Commission.
- (3) The physician shall give any injured unarmed combatant temporary or emergency treatment in the arena or dressing room, and no additional fee may be charged. Application of sutures is beyond the scope of duties expected of a ringside physician and is not considered temporary or emergency treatment under the provisions of 523 CMR 13.07.

13.08: Unarmed Combatant must Report Certain Injuries and Illnesses; Physical Examination Required; Payment of Physician

- (1) When an unarmed combatant is unable to take part in a contest or exhibition for which he or she has entered into a bout agreement because of his or her injury or illness, they shall immediately report the fact to the Commission and shall submit to an examination by a physician designated by the Commission, if requested.
- (2) The fee for the physician's examination must be paid by the promoter if they requested the examination. Otherwise, the fee must be paid by the unarmed combatant.

13.09 Suspension of Licensee for Medical Reason

- (1) A licensee who is determined by a physician to be unfit to compete or officiate must be suspended until it is shown that they are fit for further competition or officiating.
- (2) An unarmed combatant suspended for their medical protection shall take a medical examination upon the direction of the Commission or the Commission's representative. The examining physician may require any procedures deemed appropriate during the medical examination.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

523 CMR 13.00: M.G.L. c. 147, § 46.

NON-TEXT PAGE

523 CMR 14.00: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL UNARMED COMBAT CONTESTS AND EXHIBITIONS

Section

- 14.01: Unarmed Combatants must Report Before Contest or Exhibition
- 14.02: Proper Attire and Equipment of Unarmed Combatants
- 14.03: Physical Appearance of Unarmed Combatants
- 14.04: Time Required to Elapse Before Unarmed Combatant Competes in Successive Contest or Exhibition
- 14.05: Procedure for Use of Scorecards
- 14.06: Conduct of Chief Second and Assistant Seconds; Instructions to Unarmed Combatants by Referee
- 14.07: Limitations on Seconds
- 14.08: Duties of Ringside Physician
- 14.09: Warning Before Start of Round
- 14.10: Duration of Round
- 14.11: Persons Allowed in Ring
- 14.12: Fouls: Disqualification; Withholding of Purse in Professional Contests or Exhibitions
- 14.13: Fouls: Intentional
- 14.14: Determination to Stop Contest or Exhibition: Injury to Unarmed Combatant
- 14.15: Determination to Stop Contest or Exhibition: One-sided Contest or Exhibition; Risk of Serious Injury
- 14.16: Determination to Stop Contest or Exhibition: Unarmed Combatant not Honestly Competing
- 14.17: Leaving Ring During Period of Rest Prohibited; Effect of Failure to Resume Competition
- 14.18: Procedure When Unarmed Combatant Has Fallen Through or Been Knocked Through Ropes
- 14.19: Announcement of Winner
- 14.20: Change of Decision after Contest or Exhibition: Factors Considered by Commission
- 14.21: Physician's Report to Commission after Contest or Exhibition; Contents

14.01: Unarmed Combatants must Report Before Contest or Exhibition

Each unarmed combatant must report to the representative of the Commission in charge of dressing rooms before the scheduled time of the first contest or exhibition of a program of unarmed combat.

14.02: Proper Attire and Equipment of Unarmed Combatants

- (1) Each unarmed combatant must provide themselves with a costume, including shorts without pockets or openings, which is subject to the approval of the Commission or its representative.
- (2) Each unarmed combatant must appear in proper attire. The unarmed combatants may not wear the same colors in the ring or, if the contest or exhibition is being held in a fenced area, in the fenced area, without the approval of the Commission's representative.
- (3) The belt of the shorts must not extend above the waist line.
- (4) (a) Each unarmed combatant must wear a mouthpiece which has been individually fitted.  
(b) Each boxer must wear an abdominal protector which will protect him or her against injury from a foul blow. The abdominal protector must not cover or extend above the umbilicus.
- (5) Mixed Martial Arts combatants may not wear shoes or any padding on their feet during the contest.
- (6) Mixed Martial Arts combatants may not wear anything on the legs, including but not limited to braces or sleeves on the knees or ankles, or tape.
- (7) For boxers only, soft braces or sleeves on the knees or ankles may be used with the approval of the Commission.
- (8) All male combatants must wear appropriate groin protections.
- (9) All female combatants must wear a form-fitting short sleeve rash guard and/or sports bra, and groin protections are prohibited.

14.03: Physical Appearance of Unarmed Combatants

- (1) A light layer of grease and nothing else may be used on a combatant's face, not to extend behind the ears. Grease may not be used anywhere else on the combatant's body. The referees or the Commission's representative in charge shall cause any excessive grease or foreign substance to be removed. Combatants shall be examined by a referee or Deputy Commissioner prior to entering the ring or cage to ensure that improper or excessive amounts of grease are not present.
- (2) The Commission's representative shall determine whether head or facial hair presents any hazard to the safety of the unarmed combatant or his or her opponent or will interfere with the supervision and conduct of the contest or exhibition. If the head or facial hair of an unarmed combatant presents such a hazard or will interfere with the supervision and conduct of the contest or exhibition, the unarmed combatant may not compete unless the circumstances creating the hazard or potential interference are corrected to the satisfaction of the Commission's representative.
- (3) An unarmed combatant may not wear any jewelry or other piercing accessories while competing.
- (4) Finger nails shall be of a length so as not to be able to inflict injury to an opponent.

14.04: Time Required to Elapse Before Unarmed Combatant Competes in Successive Contest or Exhibition

- (1) With respect to contests or exhibitions of unarmed combat, except for mixed martial arts, without the special permission of the Commission, an unarmed combatant may not compete unless:
  - (a) Four days have elapsed since their last contest or exhibition if the contest or exhibition lasted not more than four rounds.
  - (b) Seven days have elapsed since their last contest or exhibition if the contest or exhibition lasted five or six rounds.
  - (c) 14 days have elapsed since their last contest or exhibition if the contest or exhibition lasted seven or eight rounds.
  - (d) 21 days have elapsed since their last contest or exhibition if the contest or exhibition lasted nine or ten rounds.
  - (e) 30 days have elapsed since their last contest or exhibition if the contest or exhibition lasted 11 or 12 rounds.
- (2) With respect to mixed martial arts contests or exhibitions, without the special permission of the Commission, an unarmed combatant may not compete unless four days have elapsed for each round completed in their last competition.

14.05: Procedure for Use of Scorecards

- (1) The Commission or Commission's representative shall give scorecards to each judge, before the start of the contest or exhibition. There shall be one card for each scheduled round of the bout. Each card shall identify the unarmed combatant and the corner they are assigned to.
- (2) The judges shall score each round of the contest or exhibition on an individual scorecard and sign it. The Commission or its designee shall pick up the scorecard from each judge and turn in the scorecards at the Commission's desk following the completion of each round.
- (3) Reports of each contest or exhibition will be kept on file in the office of the Commission.

14.06: Conduct of Chief Second and Assistant Seconds; Instructions to Unarmed Combatants by Referee

The referee shall, before starting a contest or exhibition, ascertain from each unarmed combatant the name of their chief second, and shall hold the chief second responsible for the conduct of the assistant seconds during the contest or exhibition.



14.07: Limitations on Seconds

- (1) No unarmed combatant may have more than three seconds except that in a contest for a world title or in a special event the Commission may authorize four seconds.
- (2) For boxing, only one of the seconds may be inside the ring ropes during a period of rest. In mixed martial arts and other unarmed combative sports, two of the seconds may be inside the ring ropes or fenced area during a period of rest unless the services of a cutman are required during the period of rest. In that case, only one of the seconds may be inside the ring ropes or fenced area during the period of rest.
- (3) A second may not coach excessively from the corners during a period of unarmed combat and must remain in their assigned corner area during the period of the contest.
- (4) Any excessive or undue spraying or throwing of water on an unarmed combatant by a second during a period of rest is prohibited.

14.08: Duties of Ringside Physician

- (1) There shall be at least two physicians present at all programs of unarmed combat.
- (2) One of the two physicians designated by the Commission shall sit at the immediate ringside at every contest or exhibition. A contest or exhibition may not proceed unless one ringside physician is in their seat at ringside. The ringside physician shall not leave until after the decision in the final contest or exhibition. They shall be prepared to assist if any serious emergency arises and shall render temporary or emergency treatments for cuts and minor injuries sustained by the unarmed combatants.
- (3) If an unarmed combatant appears to have been injured during a period of unarmed combat, their manager or second shall not attempt to render aid to him before the ringside physician has had an opportunity to examine them.
- (4) A physician shall examine each unarmed combatant contemporaneously with the weigh in for the scheduled match and following the match. An evaluation form provided by the Commission shall be completed for each examination and returned to the Commission.

14.09: Warning Before Start of Round

Ten seconds before the beginning of each round the timekeeper shall give warning to the seconds of the unarmed combatants by blowing a whistle or by utilizing some other type of audible device approved by the Commission.

14.10: Duration of Round

- (1) A round of unarmed combat, other than the final round, includes a period of unarmed combat followed by a period of rest. The final round of unarmed combat includes only a period of unarmed combat.
- (2) For boxing and amateur mixed martial arts contests or exhibitions, a period of unarmed combat must be three minutes in duration, and a period of rest following a period of unarmed combat must be one minute in duration. The Commission may approve a different duration for either period.
- (3) For professional mixed martial arts contests or exhibitions, a period of unarmed combat must be five minutes in duration, and a period of rest following a period of unarmed combat must be one minute in duration. The Commission may approve a different duration for either period.
- (4) A round of unarmed combat does not begin or end until the bell, gong, airhorn or other audible device approved by the Commission sounds.

14.11: Persons Allowed in Ring

- (1) No persons other than the unarmed combatants and the referee may be in the ring or fenced area during a period of unarmed combat.
- (2) The referee may stop a contest or exhibition if an unauthorized person enters the ring or fenced area during a round.

14.12: Fouls: Disqualification; Withholding of Purse in Professional Contests or Exhibitions

An unarmed combatant guilty of a foul may be disqualified by the referee and, in the case of professional contests, their purse may be withheld by the Commission. Disposition of the purse and the penalty to be imposed upon the unarmed combatant will be determined by the Commission.

14.13: Fouls: Intentional

- (1) If the referee determines that a contest or exhibition may not continue because of an injury caused by an intentional foul, the unarmed combatant who committed the intentional foul loses by disqualification.
- (2) If the referee determines that a contest or exhibition may continue despite an injury caused by an intentional foul, the referee shall immediately inform the Commission's representative and the judges and shall deduct two points in boxing or one point in mixed martial arts from the score of the unarmed combatant who committed the intentional foul.
- (3) In boxing only, if an injury caused by intentional foul results in the contest or exhibition being stopped in a later round:
  - (a) The injured unarmed combatant wins by technical decision, if they are ahead on the scorecards; or
  - (b) The contest or exhibition must be declared a technical draw, if the injured unarmed combatant is behind or even on the scorecards.
- (4) If an unarmed combatant injures themselves while attempting to foul his opponent, the referee shall not take any action in their favor and the injury must be treated the same as an injury produced by a fair blow.

14.14: Determination to Stop Contest or Exhibition: Injury to Unarmed Combatant

The referee shall determine whether a contest or exhibition should be stopped because of an injury to an unarmed combatant.

14.15: Determination to Stop Contest or Exhibition: One-sided Contest or Exhibition: Risk of Serious Injury

- (1) The referee may stop a contest or exhibition at any stage if the referee determines that the contest or exhibition is too one-sided or if either unarmed combatant is in such a condition that to continue might subject the unarmed combatant to serious injury.
- (2) The referee shall stop a contest or exhibition of unarmed combat at any stage if the referee determines that both unarmed combatants are in such a condition that to continue might subject the unarmed combatants to serious injury. If a contest or exhibition is stopped pursuant to 523 CMR 14.16(2), the decision shall be deemed to be a technical draw.

14.16: Determination to Stop Contest or Exhibition: Unarmed Combatant not Honestly Competing

If the referee decides that an unarmed combatant is not honestly competing, they may stop the contest or exhibition before its scheduled completion, disqualify the unarmed combatant and recommend the purse of that unarmed combatant be withheld in whole or in part.

14.17: Leaving Ring During Period of Rest Prohibited; Effect of Failure to Resume Competition

An unarmed combatant shall not leave the ring or, if the contest or exhibition is being held in a fenced area, the fenced area, during any period of rest that follows a period of unarmed combat. If an unarmed combatant fails or refuses to resume competing when the bell sounds signaling the commencement of the next round, the referee shall award a decision of technical knockout to their opponent as of the round which has last been finished, unless the circumstances indicate to the Commission the need for investigation or punitive action, in which event the referee shall not give a decision and shall recommend that the purse or purses of either or both unarmed combatants be withheld.

14.18: Procedure When Unarmed Combatant Has Fallen Through or Been Knocked Through Ropes

- (1) An unarmed combatant who has been knocked or has fallen through the ropes and over the edge of the ring platform during a contest or exhibition:
  - (a) May be helped back by anyone except his or her seconds or manager; and the referee will stop the clock, assess the combatant's condition, and resume time once the combatant is able to safely re-enter the ring.
  - (b) Will be given 20 seconds to return to the ring.
- (2) An unarmed combatant who has been knocked or has fallen on the ring platform outside the ropes, but not over the edge of the ring platform:
  - (a) May not be helped back by anyone, including, without limitation, his or her seconds or manager; and the referee may stop the clock and assess the situation until the combatant is able to return to the ring.
  - (b) Will be given ten seconds to regain his or her feet and get back into the ring.
- (3) If the seconds or manager of the unarmed combatant who has been knocked or has fallen pursuant to 523 CMR 14.18(1) and (2) helps the unarmed combatant back into the ring, such help may be cause for disqualification.
- (4) When one unarmed combatant has fallen through the ropes, the other unarmed combatant shall retire to the farthest corner and stay there until ordered to continue the contest or exhibition by the referee.
- (5) An unarmed combatant who deliberately wrestles or throws an opponent from the ring, or who hits him or her when he or she is partly out of the ring and is prevented by the ropes from assuming a position of defense, may be penalized.

14.19: Announcement of Winner

At the termination of each contest, the announcer shall announce the winner and the referee shall raise the hand of the winner.

14.20: Change of Decision after Contest or Exhibition: Factors Considered by Commission

- (1) A request for change of decision after a contest or exhibition must be in writing, and the Commission may, in its discretion, refuse the request without reviewing details of the fight or holding a hearing.
- (2) The Commission will not exercise its discretion to review a decision unless it receives compelling and plausible allegations of:
  - (a) Collusion or fraud affecting the result of a contest or exhibition; or
  - (b) Scoring error resulting in a decision given to the wrong unarmed combatant; or
  - (c) Flagrant referee error resulting in a decision given to the wrong unarmed combatant.
- (3) The Commission will hold a hearing to review a decision only if it believes there is the potential for licensee discipline, or if in its judgment testimony is required. In the case of allegations addressed in 523 CMR 14.20(2)(a) and (b), review of the decision will generally be limited to scoring records and / or video of the fight in question.
- (4) The Commission will not change a decision unless collusion or error directly affected the outcome of the fight.

14.21: Physician's Report to Commission after Contest or Exhibition: Contents

The physician designated by the Commission shall conduct a post fight examination of each combatant and file a report after a contest or exhibition. The report must list, at a minimum, each case in which an unarmed combatant:

- (1) Was injured during the contest or exhibition; or
- (2) Applied for medical aid after the contest or exhibition.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

523 CMR 14.00: M.G.L. c. 147, § 46.

523 CMR 15.00: BOXING CONTESTS AND EXHIBITIONS

Section

- 15.01: Method of Judging Boxing Contest or Exhibition
- 15.02: Fair Blow in Boxing
- 15.03: Acts Constituting Fouls in Boxing
- 15.04: Duties of Referee; Warnings; Deduction of Points; Disqualification
- 15.05: Fouls: Deduction of Points; Effect of Low Blow
- 15.06: Fouls: Disqualification; Withholding of Purse in Professional Contests
- 15.07: Fouls: Intentional
- 15.08: Fouls: Accidental
- 15.09: Gloves to be Wiped by Referee after Fall of Unarmed Combatant
- 15.10: Procedure for Counting; Knockdown; Knockout; Technical Draw
- 15.11: Resumption of Count in Certain Circumstances
- 15.12: Adjudication of Technical Knockout
- 15.13: Determination of Whether Boxer Is Down; Effect of Hanging onto or Being Held up by Ropes

15.01: Method of Judging Boxing Contest or Exhibition

(1) In accordance with M.G.L. c. 147, § 36, each bout shall be judged by three judges. Each judge of a boxing contest or exhibition that is being judged shall score the contest or exhibition and determine the winner through the use of the *10 Points Must System* as follows:

- (a) The better boxer of a round receives ten points and their opponent proportionately less.
- (b) If the round is even, each boxer receives ten points.
- (c) No fraction of points may be given.
- (d) Points for each round must be awarded immediately after the end of the period of unarmed combat in the round.

(2) After the end of the boxing contest or exhibition, the announcer shall pick up the scores of the judges from the Commission's desk. The majority opinion is conclusive and, if there is no majority, the decision is a draw.

(3) When the Commission has checked the scores, they shall inform the announcer of the decision and the announcer shall inform the audience of the decision over the speaker system.

(4) Incomplete rounds shall be scored by the judges. If the referee penalizes either unarmed combatant in an incomplete round, the appropriate points shall be deducted.

15.02: Fair Blow in Boxing

A fair blow in boxing is one delivered with the padded knuckle part of the glove on the front or side of the head or the front or side of the body above the belt.

15.03: Acts Constituting Fouls in Boxing

The following acts constitute fouls in boxing:

- (1) Hitting below the belt.
- (2) Hitting an opponent who is down or is getting up after being down.
- (3) Holding an opponent with one hand and hitting with the other.
- (4) Holding or deliberately maintaining a clinch.
- (5) Wrestling or kicking.
- (6) If the referee has signaled that the opponent has been knocked out, striking an opponent who is helpless as a result of previous blows and so supported by the ropes that he or she does not fall.

15.03: continued

- (7) Butting with the head or shoulder or using the knee.
- (8) Hitting with the open glove, the butt of the hand, the wrist or the elbow, and all backhand blows.
- (9) Purposely going down without being hit.
- (10) Striking deliberately at that part of the body over the kidneys.
- (11) Deliberately using the rabbit punch.
- (12) Jabbing the opponent's eyes with the thumb of the glove.
- (13) Using abusive language in the ring.
- (14) Engaging in any unsportsmanlike trick or action which causes injury to an opponent.
- (15) Hitting on the break.
- (16) Hitting after the bell has sounded the end of the period of unarmed combat.
- (17) Hitting an opponent whose head is between and outside of the ropes.
- (18) Pushing an opponent about the ring or into the ropes.

15.04: Duties of Referee; Warnings; Deduction of Points; Disqualification

- (1) A referee is the sole arbiter of a bout and is the only individual authorized to stop a contest. A referee is responsible for enforcing the rules of the contest or exhibition. They shall not permit unfair practices that may cause injuries to an unarmed combatant.
- (2) The referee shall warn the unarmed combatants whenever they are committing fouls.
- (3) If a boxer commits a foul, the referee may deduct points from them or disqualify them.

15.05: Fouls; Deduction of Points; Effect of Low Blow

- (1) If a boxer fouls their opponent during a contest or exhibition or commits any other infraction, the referee may penalize them by deducting points from their score, whether or not the foul or infraction was intentional. The referee may determine the number of points to be deducted in each instance and shall base their determination on the severity of the foul or infraction and its effect upon the opponent.
- (1) When the referee determines that it is necessary to deduct a point or points because of a foul or infraction, they shall warn the offender of the penalty to be assessed.
- (3) The referee shall, as soon as is practical after the foul, notify the judges and both unarmed combatants of the number of points, if any, to be deducted from the score of the offender.
- (4) Any point or points to be deducted for any foul or infraction must be deducted in the round in which the foul or infraction occurred, and may not be deducted from the score of any subsequent round.
- (5) A boxer may not be declared the winner of a contest or exhibition on the basis of their claim that his or her opponent committed a foul by hitting him or her below the belt. If a boxer falls to the floor of the ring or otherwise indicates that they are unwilling to continue because of a claim of a low blow, the contest or exhibition must be declared to be a technical knockout in favor of the boxer who is willing to continue.

15.06: Fouls: Disqualification: Withholding of Purse in Professional Contests

A boxer guilty of a foul in a contest or exhibition may be disqualified by the referee and their purse ordered withheld by the Commission. Disposition of the purse and the penalty to be imposed upon the boxer will be determined by the Commission.

15.07: Fouls: Intentional

- (1) If the referee determines that a contest or exhibition may not continue because of an injury caused by an intentional foul, the unarmed combatant who committed the intentional foul loses by disqualification.
- (2) If the referee determines that a contest or exhibition may continue despite an injury caused by an intentional foul, the referee shall immediately inform the Commission's representative and the judges and shall deduct two points from the score of the unarmed combatant who committed the intentional foul.
- (3) If an injury caused by an intentional foul results in the contest or exhibition being stopped in a later round:
  - (a) The injured unarmed combatant wins by technical decision, if they are ahead on the scorecards; or
  - (b) The contest or exhibition must be declared a technical draw, if the injured unarmed combatant is behind or even on the scorecards.
- (4) If an unarmed combatant injures themselves while attempting to foul his or her opponent, the referee shall not take any action in their favor and the injury must be treated the same as an injury produced by a fair blow.

15.08: Fouls: Accidental

- (1) If a contest or exhibition is stopped because of an accidental foul, the referee shall determine whether the boxer who has been fouled can continue or not. If the boxer's chance of winning has not been seriously jeopardized as a result of a foul and if the foul did not involve a concussive impact to the head of the unarmed combatant who was fouled, the referee may order the contest or exhibition continued after a reasonable interval. Before the contest or exhibition begins again, the referee shall inform the Commission's representative of his determination that the foul was accidental.
- (2) If the referee determines that the contest or exhibition may not continue because of an injury suffered as the result of an accidental foul, the contest or exhibition must be declared a no decision if the foul occurs during:
  - (a) The first three rounds of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for six rounds or less; or
  - (b) The first four rounds of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for more than six rounds.
- (3) If an accidental foul renders an unarmed combatant unable to continue the contest or exhibition after:
  - (a) The completed third round of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for six rounds or less; or
  - (b) The completed fourth round of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for more than six rounds,
 the outcome must be determined by scoring the completed rounds and the round during which the referee stops the contest or exhibition.
- (4) If an injury inflicted by an accidental foul later becomes aggravated by fair blows and the referee orders the contest or exhibition stopped because of the injury, the outcome must be determined by scoring the completed rounds and the round during which the referee stops the contest or exhibition.

15.09: Gloves to be Wiped by Referee after Fall of Unarmed Combatant

Before an unarmed combatant may resume competing after having been knocked or having fallen or slipped to the floor of the ring, the referee shall wipe the gloves of the unarmed combatant with a damp towel or the referee's shirt.

15.10: Procedure for Counting: Knockdown: Knockout: Technical Draw

(1) When a boxer is knocked down, the referee shall order the opponent to retire to the farthest neutral corner of the ring, by pointing to the corner, and shall immediately begin the count over the unarmed combatant who is down. The referee shall audibly announce the passing of the seconds, accompanying the count with motions of his or her arm, with the downward motion indicating the end of each second.

(2) The timekeeper, by effective signaling, shall give the referee the correct one-second interval for their count. The referee's count is the official count. Once the referee picks up the count from the timekeeper, the timekeeper shall cease counting. No boxer who is knocked down may be allowed to resume competing until the referee has finished counting to eight. The boxer may take the count either on the floor or standing.

(3) If the opponent fails to stay in the farthest corner, the referee shall cease counting until they have returned to their corner and shall then go on with the count from the point at which it was interrupted. If the boxer who is down arises before the count of ten, the referee may step between the unarmed combatants long enough to assure themselves that the unarmed combatant who has just arisen is in condition to continue. If so assured, they shall, without loss of time, order both unarmed combatants to go on with the contest or exhibition. During the intervention by the referee, the striking of a blow by either unarmed combatant may be ruled a foul.

(4) When a boxer is knocked out, the referee shall perform a full ten-second count unless, in the judgment of the referee, the safety of the boxer would be jeopardized by such a count. If the boxer who is knocked down is still down when the referee calls the count of ten, the referee shall wave both arms to indicate that he or she has been knocked out.

(5) If both boxers go down at the same time, the count must be continued as long as one is still down. If both boxers remain down until the count of ten, the contest or exhibition must be stopped and the decision is a technical draw.

(6) If a boxer is down and the referee is in the course of counting at the end of a period of unarmed combat, the bell indicating the end of the period of unarmed combat must not be sounded, but the bell must be sounded as soon as the downed unarmed combatant regains his or her feet.

(7) When a boxer has been knocked down before the normal termination of a period of unarmed combat and the period of unarmed combat terminates before he has arisen from the floor of the ring, the referee's count must be continued. If the boxer who is down fails to arise before the count of ten, they are considered to have lost the contest or exhibition by a knockout in the round containing the period of unarmed combat that was just concluded.

(8) If a legal blow struck in the final seconds of a period of unarmed combat causes a boxer to go down after the bell has sounded, that knockdown must be regarded as having occurred during the period of unarmed combat just ended and the appropriate count must continue.

15.11: Resumption of Count in Certain Circumstances

If a knockdown occurs before the normal termination of a period of unarmed combat and the unarmed combatant who is down stands up before the count of ten is reached and then falls down immediately without being struck, the referee shall resume the count where it was left off.



15.12: Adjudication of Technical Knockout

(1) If a contest or exhibition is terminated because a boxer is:

- (a) Unable to continue;
- (b) Not honestly competing;
- (c) Injured; or
- (d) Disqualified,

it may be adjudged a technical knockout to the credit of the winner.

(2) A contest or exhibition which is won by other than a full count of ten or the scoring of the judges must be adjudged a technical knockout to the credit of the winner.

15.13: Determination of Whether Boxer Is Down; Effect of Hanging onto or Being Held up by Ropes

(1) A boxer shall be deemed to be down when:

- (a) Any part of their body other than their feet are on the floor; or
- (b) They are hanging over the ropes without the ability to protect themselves and they cannot fall to the floor.

(2) A referee may count a boxer out if the boxer is on the floor or is being held up by the ropes.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

523 CMR 15.00: M.G.L. c. 147, § 46.

NON-TEXT PAGE

523 CMR 16.00: MIXED MARTIAL ARTS CONTESTS AND EXHIBITIONS

Section

- 16.01: Duration
- 16.02: Method of Judging
- 16.03: Acts Constituting Fouls
- 16.04: Fouls: Deduction of Points
- 16.05: Fouls: Accidental
- 16.06: Results of Contests

16.01: Duration

In accordance with M.G.L. c. 147, § 38, the following limitations shall apply except as otherwise approved by the Commission:

- (1) A non-championship contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts must not exceed three rounds in duration.
- (2) A championship contest of mixed martial arts may be five rounds in duration.
- (3) A period of unarmed combat in a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts must be five minutes in duration. A period of rest following a period of unarmed combat in a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts must be one minute in duration.

16.02: Method of Judging

(1) In accordance with M.G.L. c. 147, § 36, each bout shall be judged by three judges. Each judge of a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts shall score the contest or exhibition and determine the winner through the use of the *10 Points Must System* as follows:

- (a) The better unarmed combatant of a round receives ten points and their opponent proportionately less.
- (b) No fraction of points may be given.
- (c) Points for each round must be awarded immediately after the end of the period of unarmed combat in the round.

(2) In determining a score, the judges shall consider and give weight to mixed martial arts techniques, in the following order: effective striking/grappling, effective aggressiveness, and fighting area control. The default scoring criteria shall be that which is promulgated by the Association of Boxing Commissions, except for any specific criteria the Commission may amend, remove, or add for use in Massachusetts.

(3) The majority opinion is conclusive and, if there is no majority, the decision is a draw. Use of an overtime round must be approved by the Commission prior to the event and should be requested contemporaneously upon the filing of the fight card. In order for use of an overtime round to be approved, a provision agreeing to such must be contained in the bout agreement of the combatants.

(4) When the Commission's representative has checked the scores, they shall inform the announcer of the decision. The announcer shall inform the audience of the decision over the speaker system.

(5) If a fight is stopped due to an injury caused by an accidental foul, or for any other unforeseen circumstance, the round of the stoppage shall be scored and counted using the *10 Point Must System* if the round is at least half way complete. If the referee penalizes either unarmed combatant in an incomplete round, the appropriate points shall be deducted.

16.03: Acts Constituting Fouls

The following acts constitute fouls in a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts, the details of which default to the Association of Boxing Commissions' Unified Rules of MMA "FOULS":

- (1) Butting with the head.
- (2) Eye gouging of any kind.
- (3) Biting.
- (4) Hair pulling.
- (5) Fishhooking.
- (6) Groin attacks of any kind.
- (7) Putting a finger into any orifice or into any cut or laceration on an opponent.
- (8) Small joint manipulation.
- (9) Striking to the spine or the back of the head.
- (10) Striking downward using the point of the elbow.
- (11) Throat strikes of any kind, including, without limitation, grabbing the trachea.
- (12) Clawing, pinching or twisting the flesh.
- (13) Kicking the head of a grounded opponent.
- (14) Kneeing the head of a grounded opponent.
- (15) Stomping a grounded opponent.
- (16) Spiking an opponent to the canvas on his head or neck.
- (17) Throwing an opponent out of the ring or fenced area.
- (18) Holding the shorts or gloves of an opponent.
- (19) Spitting at an opponent.
- (20) Engaging in any unsportsmanlike conduct that causes an injury to an opponent.
- (21) Holding the ropes or the fence.
- (22) Using abusive language in the ring or fenced area.
- (23) Attacking an opponent on or during the break.
- (24) Attacking an opponent who is under the care of the referee.
- (25) Attacking an opponent after the bell has sounded the end of the period of unarmed combat.
- (26) Flagrantly disregarding the instructions of the referee.
- (27) Timidity, including, without limitation, avoiding contact with an opponent, intentionally or consistently dropping the mouthpiece or faking an injury.

16.03: continued

- (28) Interference by the corner.
- (29) For amateur contests only:
  - (a) Elbowing;
  - (b) Kneeing to the head while standing; and
  - (c) Heel hooks.

16.04: Fouls: Deduction of Points

- (1) If an unarmed combatant fouls their opponent during a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts, the referee may penalize them by deducting points from their score, whether or not the foul was intentional. The referee may determine the number of points to be deducted in each instance and shall base their determination on the severity of the foul and its effect upon the opponent except that in the case of an intentional foul inflicting injury, as determined solely by the referee, one point must be deducted in accordance with 523 CMR 14.14(2).
- (2) The referee shall, as soon as is practical after the foul, notify the judges and both unarmed combatants of the number of points, if any, to be deducted from the score of the offender.
- (3) Any point or points to be deducted for any foul must be deducted in the round in which the foul occurred and may not be deducted from the score of any subsequent round.

16.05: Fouls: Accidental

- (1) If a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts is stopped because of an accidental foul, the referee shall determine whether the unarmed combatant who has been fouled can continue or not. A recuperative interval of not more than five minutes is allowed for groin fouls only. Immediately after separating the unarmed combatants, the referee shall inform the Commission of his determination that the foul was accidental.
- (2) If the referee determines that a contest or exhibition of mixed martial arts may not continue because of an injury suffered as the result of an accidental foul, the contest or exhibition must be declared a no decision if the foul occurs during:
  - (a) The first two rounds of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for three rounds or less; or
  - (b) The first three rounds of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for more than three rounds.
- (3) If an accidental foul renders an unarmed combatant unable to continue the contest or exhibition after:
  - (a) The completed second round of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for three rounds or less; or
  - (b) The completed third round of a contest or exhibition that is scheduled for more than three rounds,
 the outcome must be determined by scoring the completed rounds and the round during which the referee stops the contest or exhibition if that round is more than half way complete.
- (4) If an injury inflicted by an accidental foul later becomes aggravated by fair blows and the referee orders the contest or exhibition stopped because of the injury, the outcome must be determined by scoring the completed rounds and the round during which the referee stops the contest or exhibition.

16.06: Results of Contests

A contest of mixed martial arts may end under the following results:

- (1) Submission by:
  - (a) Physical tap out;
  - (b) Verbal tap out; or
  - (c) Technical.
- (2) Technical knockout by the referee stopping the contest.
- (3) Decision *via* the scorecards, including:
  - (a) Unanimous decision.
  - (b) Split decision.
  - (c) Majority decision.
  - (d) Draw, including:
    1. Unanimous draw.
    2. Majority draw.
    3. Split draw.
- (4) Technical decision.
- (5) Technical draw.
- (6) Disqualification.
- (7) Forfeit.
- (8) No decision.
- (9) No contest.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

523 CMR 16.00: M.G.L. c. 147, § 46.

523 CMR: STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

523 CMR 17.00: UNARMED COMBAT CONTESTS AND EXHIBITIONS NOT PROVIDED FOR  
IN 523 CMR

Section

17.01: Applicability

17.02: Use of Official Rules; Duties of Sponsoring Organization or Promoter; Approval of Commission  
Required

17.01: Applicability

The provisions of 523 CMR 17.00 shall apply to all unarmed combat matches and exhibitions not expressly provided for in 523 CMR and required to be licensed in accordance with M.G.L. c. 147, § 32.

17.02: Use of Official Rules; Duties of Sponsoring Organization or Promoter; Approval of Commission  
Required

A contest or exhibition of a unarmed combat must be conducted pursuant to the official rules for the particular art. In addition to the required documentation to be submitted as part of the event license process set forth in 523 CMR 10.02: *Event License: Submission and Approval of Program and Date; Content; Payment of Fee; Cancellation of Program*, the promoter must file a copy of the official rules with the Commission before it will approve the holding of the contest or exhibition.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

523 CMR 17.00: M.G.L. c. 147, § 46.

NON-TEXT PAGE



523 CMR: STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

(523 CMR 18.00: RESERVED)

NON-TEXT PAGE

523 CMR 19.00: AMATEUR CONTESTS AND EXHIBITIONS HELD BY AMATEUR  
SANCTIONING ORGANIZATIONS

Section

- 19.01: Applicability
- 19.02: Sanctioning of Amateur Event
- 19.03: Approval of Amateur Sanctioning Organization
- 19.04: Licensure of Individuals
- 19.05: License for Events
- 19.06: Payment of Fees

19.01: Applicability

The provisions of 523 CMR 19.00 shall apply to matches and exhibitions held by amateur sanctioning organizations approved by the Commission and governed by the provisions of M.G.L. c. 147, § 35A. The Commission or its designee has discretion to require an amateur sanctioning organization to additionally comply with other provisions within 523 CMR as necessary.

19.02: Sanctioning of Amateur Event

In accordance with M.G.L. c. 147, § 35A, no amateur match which is subject to licensure pursuant to M.G.L. c. 147, § 32 shall be held unless it is licensed by the Commission and sanctioned and supervised by an amateur sanctioning organization approved by the Commission. The Commission may itself sanction amateur events in which case 523 CMR 19.00 does not apply.

19.03: Approval of Amateur Sanctioning Organization

(1) An amateur sanctioning organization may become approved by the Commission by submitting an application on a form provided by the Commission. The application shall include information outlining the organization's operational structure, governing rules or regulations, the name of a person responsible for communicating with the Commission, and any other information deemed necessary by the Commission. The Commission may require the applicant to appear before it for a hearing on the application.

(2) At a minimum, all amateur sanctioning organizations approved to supervise an amateur event must follow and enforce the following:

- (a) Compliance with physical and medical examinations and tests requirements of 523 CMR 6.02: *Physical and Medical Examinations and Tests*.
- (b) In accordance with M.G.L. c. 147, § 39B, the organization must require the promoter of an event take out a policy of accident insurance on each participating fighter in the amount of at least \$5000 to compensate him or her for medical or hospital expenses incurred as the result of injuries received in such match and a policy in the amount of at least \$50,000 to be paid to the estate of the deceased fighter in the event of death resulting from participation in a match. The premiums on the policies shall be paid by the promoter. The terms of the insurance coverage must not require the fighter to pay a deductible for the medical, surgical, or hospital care for injuries he sustains while engaged in a contest. In the event that an event is scheduled to contain professional and amateur matches, the organization must accept the insurance policies obtained by the promoter that satisfy M.G.L. c. 147, § 39B and 523 CMR 10.02: *Event License: Submission and Approval of Program and Date; Content; Payment of Fee; Cancellation of Program* provided that it covers all fighters. The organization shall not have any financial interest in the policies.
- (c) The organization shall not require shin guards, but may allow their use if requested by both fighters.
- (d) The organization shall not enter into any exclusivity type agreements with any promoters, fighters, or ringside officials so as to prevent them from working with other organizations.

19.03: continued

(3) Prior to sanctioning any amateur events, an approved amateur sanctioning organization shall file with the Commission a copy of the governing rules and regulations, incorporating those required pursuant to 523 CMR 19.03(2), that they will enforce. The Commission may direct the organization to amend its rules at any time. Failure to enforce the submitted and approved rules shall be grounds for revocation of the organization's approval. The approval of any organization may be revoked or suspended, after hearing, for any reason deemed appropriate by the Commission.

19.04: Licensure of Individuals

All individuals other than unarmed combatants participating in an amateur contest or exhibition held by an amateur sanctioning organization must be licensed by the Commission in accordance with 523 CMR 6.00: *Licensing and Registration*.

19.05: License for Events

(1) Except as otherwise provided in 523 CMR, a promoter shall not hold a program of amateur unarmed combat required to be licensed pursuant to M.G.L. c. 147, § 32 unless before the program is held:

- (a) The promoter submits to the Commission an application for an event license on a form provided by the Commission; and
- (b) The Commission approves the application and the date for the program.

(2) A written request for an event license must include, without limitation:

- (a) The proposed site for the event;
- (b) The proposed date of the event;
- (c) Documentation evidencing that the event has been sanctioned and will be supervised by an organization approved by the Commission in accordance with 523 CMR 19.03;
- (d) The event license fee.

(3) An application for licensure of an amateur contest or exhibition must be filed with the Commission at least ten days before the date of the program.

19.06: Payment of Fees

Amateur sanctioning organizations must pay to the Commission those fees required by M.G.L. c. 147, §§ 40 and 40A.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

523 CMR 19.00: M.G.L. c. 147, § 46.

523 CMR 20.00: PROHIBITED ACTS; DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Section

- 20.01: Administration or Use of Alcohol, Stimulants, Drugs or Injections; Urinalysis or Chemical Tests; Disciplinary Action
- 20.02: Solicitation to Conduct Fraudulent Contest or Exhibition: Duty of Licensee to Report Such Solicitation Immediately; Disciplinary Action for Failure to Report
- 20.03: Grounds for Disciplinary Action
- 20.04: Licensees Prohibited from Engaging in Activities that Bring Disrepute to Unarmed Combat
- 20.05: Suspension of License on Ground of Moral Turpitude
- 20.06: Suspension by Another Jurisdiction May Be Honored by Commission
- 20.07: Licensees Prohibited from Dealing with Persons Whose Licenses Are Suspended or Revoked
- 20.08: Effect of Suspension or Revocation of Certain Licenses
- 20.09: Penalties for Certain Violations
- 20.10: Disciplinary Action for Dishonored Check
- 20.11: Knockouts

20.01: Administration or Use of Alcohol, Stimulants, Drugs or Injections; Urinalysis or Chemical Tests; Disciplinary Action

(1) The Commission adheres to the *Prohibited List* published by the World Anti-doping Agency for anti-doping standards. Use of any substance identified on the *Prohibited List* by any unarmed combatant licensed or seeking licensure by the Commission is prohibited. (The *Prohibited List* may be obtained by logging on to the World Anti-Doping Agency website: <http://www.usada.org/substances/prohibited-list/>).

(2) Preparations to Stop Hemorrhaging. The Commission will periodically review the preparations available to stop hemorrhaging. Only the preparations which are approved by the Commission may be used to stop hemorrhaging in the ring or fenced area. Use of Monsel's solution and silver nitrate are prohibited.

(3) Substance Testing. Acting with reasonable cause or through random selection, the Commission or its designee may require, at any time either before or after a match, an unarmed combatant to undergo a test for use of illegal drugs or other performance enhancing substances as identified on the *Prohibited List* issued by the World Anti-doping Agency. If any sample of an unarmed combatant tests positive for any such substance, or if any unarmed combatant fails to cooperate in the testing process, it shall be grounds for immediate suspension or revocation of their license and may result in forfeiture of a related match.

20.02: Solicitation to Conduct Fraudulent Contest or Exhibition: Duty of Licensee to Report Such Solicitation Immediately; Disciplinary Action for Failure to Report

When any person who is licensed by the Commission is approached with a request or suggestion that a contest or exhibition not be conducted honestly, that person must immediately report the matter to the Commission. Failure to do so is a ground for disciplinary action.

20.03: Grounds for Disciplinary Action

The Commission may suspend or revoke the license of, otherwise discipline or take any combination of such actions against a licensee who has, in the judgment of the Commission:

- (1) Violated the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, except for minor traffic violations;
- (2) Violated any provision of 523 CMR or M.G.L. c. 147;
- (3) Provided false or misleading information to the Commission or a representative of the Commission;
- (4) Failed or refused to comply with a valid order of a representative of the Commission;

20.03: continued

- (5) Conducted themselves at any time or place in a manner which is deemed by the Commission to reflect discredit to unarmed combat;
- (6) Knowingly dealt or consorted with any person who:
  - (a) Engages in illegal bookmaking;
  - (b) Is a reputed underworld character;
  - (c) Is under suspension from any other Commission;
  - (d) Engaged in any activity or practice that is detrimental to the best interests of unarmed combat; or
  - (e) Had personal knowledge that an unarmed combatant suffered a serious injury during training for a contest or exhibition and failed or refused to inform the Commission about that serious injury.
- (7) Failed to execute the duties of their position in a skillful, professional manner generally expected of an individual holding that position.
- (8) Sustained injury or abuse during a fight such that suspension of the unarmed combatant's license is necessary in the interest of protecting their physical welfare. Suspension under this provision may be issued without the provision of a hearing. The unarmed combatant may appeal such action at any time during the period of the suspension and request a hearing.

20.04: Licensees Prohibited from Engaging in Activities that Bring Disrepute to Unarmed Combat

A person licensed by the Commission shall not engage in any activity that will bring disrepute to unarmed combat, including, but not limited to, associating with any person or entity if such an association brings disrepute to unarmed combat.

20.05: Suspension of License on Ground of Moral Turpitude

A license issued by the Commission may be suspended if the holder is arrested or convicted on a charge involving moral turpitude.

20.06: Suspension by Another Jurisdiction May Be Honored by Commission

The Commission shall honor the suspension of a licensee by an agency that regulates unarmed combat in another jurisdiction if the suspension is ordered for:

- (1) Medical safety;
- (2) A violation of a law or regulation governing unarmed combat which also exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; or
- (3) Any other conduct which discredits unarmed combat, as determined by the Commission.

20.07: Licensees Prohibited from Dealing with Persons Whose Licenses Are Suspended or Revoked

A person who is licensed by the Commission shall not have any dealings related to unarmed combat with any person whose license has been suspended or revoked by the Commission.

20.08: Effect of Suspension or Revocation of Certain Licenses

- (1) Every promoter and matchmaker shall take notice of the bulletins of suspension sent out by the Commission and shall not permit any person under suspension to take any part as a participant or in arranging or conducting contests or exhibitions during the period of suspension.
- (2) A person whose license has been suspended or revoked by the Commission shall refrain from participating in or matchmaking or holding contests or exhibitions during the period of suspension or after the revocation.

20.08: continued

- (3) A person whose license has been suspended or revoked is barred from:
- (a) The dressing rooms at the premises where any program of unarmed combat is being held;
  - (b) Occupying any seat within six rows of the ring platform or, if the program is being held in a fenced area, within six rows of the platform of the fenced area;
  - (c) Approaching within six rows of seats from the ring platform or, if the program is being held in a fenced area, within six rows of seats of the platform of the fenced area; and
  - (d) Communicating in the arena or near the dressing rooms with any of the principals in the contests or exhibitions, their managers, their seconds or the referee, whether directly or by a messenger, during any program of unarmed combat.

A person who violates a provision of 523 CMR 20.08(3) may be ejected from the arena or building where the program is being held, and the price paid for his or her ticket refunded to him or her upon his or her presentation of the ticket stub at the box office. Thereafter, they are barred entirely from all premises used for contests or exhibitions while the programs are being held.

- (4) If a license issued by the Commission has been suspended because the holder used dishonest methods to affect the outcome of any contest or exhibition or because of any conduct reflecting serious discredit upon unarmed combat, the Commission will not reinstate the license for at least six months in the case of a first offense. In the case of a second offense, the holder's license will be revoked.

- (5) A manager who is under temporary suspension is considered to have forfeited all rights in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the terms of any contract with an unarmed combatant licensed by the Commission. Any attempt by a suspended manager to exercise those contract rights will result in a permanent suspension of his or her license. The license of any unarmed combatant, matchmaker or promoter who continues to engage in any contractual relations with a manager whose license has been suspended by the Commission may be indefinitely suspended.

- (6) An unarmed combatant whose manager has been suspended may continue competing independently during the term of that suspension, signing their own contracts for contests or exhibitions. Payment of the earnings of an unarmed combatant may not be made by any promoter to a manager who is under suspension, or to their agent, but the purse must be paid in full to the unarmed combatant.

- (7) Revocation of a manager's license automatically cancels all their contract rights in this State under any contracts with unarmed combatants made under the authority of the Commission. If such a revocation occurs, an unarmed combatant may operate independently and enter into contracts for his or her own contests or exhibitions, or he or she may enter into contracts with other managers licensed by the Commission.

20.09: Penalties for Certain Violations

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 147, § 42, the Commission may assess an administrative penalty not to exceed \$2,000 for each violation of M.G.L. c. 147, §§ 32 through 45, or 523 CMR committed by an individual required to be licensed under 523 CMR or required to be licensed.

20.10: Disciplinary Action for Dishonored Check

The Commission may fine a licensee or deny, suspend or revoke a license if the licensee delivers a check to the Commission that is not honored by the financial institution upon which it is drawn.

20.11: Knockouts

In accordance with M.G.L. c. 147, § 39A, an unarmed combatant who has been knocked out in a bout shall be immediately suspended for at least 30 days. The period of suspension may exceed 30 days if deemed appropriate in the interests of the safety of the licensee. Said action may be taken by the Commission without provision of a hearing in accordance with 523 CMR 21.00: *Disciplinary Proceedings*.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

523 CMR 20.00: M.G.L. c. 147, § 46.



523 CMR 21.00: DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

Section

- 21.01: Complaints
- 21.02: Basis of Complaint
- 21.03: Review and Investigation of Complaints
- 21.04: Notice of Hearing
- 21.05: Hearing
- 21.06: Subpoenas
- 21.07: Decisions and Discipline of License Holders
- 21.08: Appeals

21.01: Complaints

Any person may file a complaint against a licensee. All complaints relative to a licensee must be in writing on a form provided by the Commission. All complaints must be received by the Board within one year of the date of the alleged wrongdoing. The Commission may itself initiate a complaint at any time.

21.02: Basis of Complaint

A complaint must allege wrongdoing by a licensee in the form of a violation of 523 CMR, M.G.L. c. 147, or other act or omission that challenges the integrity of a sport regulated by the Commission.

21.03: Review and Investigation of Complaints

(1) Every complaint filed shall be reviewed by the Commission or its designee. If the reviewer determines that the complaint alleges a plausible potential violation by the licensee, a hearing shall be convened. The Commission may, if it elects, investigate a complaint prior to scheduling a hearing. Failure of a complainant to cooperate in the investigation shall be grounds for dismissal of a complaint.

(2) Upon receipt of a complaint, the Commission or its designee shall send a letter acknowledging receipt to the complainant and the licensee being complained of. A copy of the complaint and all attachments shall be forwarded to the license holder with the acknowledgment letter.

21.04: Notice of Hearing

If the Commission determines that a hearing shall be held to resolve a complaint, reasonable notice shall be provided to the complainant and the license holder. Mailing of notice to the address on record with the Commission, or emailing the notice to the address provided by the licensee on their application for licensure, shall be deemed satisfactory notice to the license holder. The notice of hearing shall contain:

- (1) The name of the complainant;
- (2) The date, time and place of said hearing; and
- (3) The location of the incident giving rise to the complaint.

21.05: Hearing

Hearings convened pursuant to 523 CMR 21.00 shall be conducted pursuant to 801 CMR 1.02: *Informal/Fair Hearing Rules* and M.G.L. c. 30A. Any party may be represented by legal counsel. All parties shall be permitted to present an opening statement, testify on their own behalf, cross-examine all witnesses, present any relevant witness testimony, present any relevant documentary evidence, and offer a closing argument. The Commission may question any witness and include any records kept by the Commission as exhibits. The Commission may conclude the hearing at any time and issue a decision based on the evidence presented.

21.05: continued

If a licensee does not appear for the hearing, the Commission may conduct a hearing in his or her absence and render a decision based upon the evidence presented, but only after making a finding that the licensee was provided notice as required by 523 CMR 21.04.

The Commission may designate a hearing officer from the Department of Public Safety to convene a hearing and either make a recommendation or issue a decision on its behalf.

21.06: Subpoenas

The Commission may issue a subpoena in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 12 requiring the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of any evidence, including books, records, correspondence or documents, relating to any matter in question in the proceeding.

21.07: Decisions and Discipline of License Holders

The Commission shall issue a written decision after the hearing. Decisions shall be issued in a reasonably prompt manner. The Commission may suspend a license for a fixed period of time, revoke a license permanently, or issue a reprimand the licensee. In conjunction with these disciplinary measures, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 147, § 42, the Commission may assess a fine of up to \$2000 per violation. Any license that is suspended or revoked shall be forwarded to the Commission immediately. A person whose license is revoked may apply in writing to the Commission for reinstatement no sooner than two years from the date of the revocation.

21.08: Appeals

Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Commission may appeal such decision to Superior Court in conformance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 14.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

523 CMR 21.00: M.G.L. c. 147, § 46.

## 523 CMR: STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

### 523 CMR 22.00: STATE CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRAM

#### Section

- 22.01: Title
- 22.02: Objectives
- 22.03: Philosophy
- 22.04: Ranking Panel
- 22.05: Approval of Rankings
- 22.06: Ranking Criteria
- 22.07: Weight Classes
- 22.08: Rankings
- 22.09: Maintaining Rankings
- 22.10: Initial Determination of a Champion
- 22.11: Champions
- 22.12: Rules of Engagement
- 22.13: Defense and Transfer of Title
- 22.14: Interim Champions
- 22.15: Mandatory Challengers
- 22.16: Discipline
- 22.17: Sponsorship

#### 22.01: Title

The program outlined in 523 CMR 22.00 shall be formally known as the State Championship Program. There shall be separate championships for boxing and mixed martial arts.

#### 22.02: Objectives

The purpose of 523 CMR 22.00 is to prescribe guidelines and criteria for the objective and consistent rankings of professional boxers and mixed martial arts contestants in furtherance of attaining the respective state championship in individual weight classes. The Commission recognizes that any ranking structure can be subjective in nature. Accordingly, 523 CMR 22.00 is intended to create a ranking structure that is objective, precise and consistent: based less on subjectivity and more on competition between active combatants so that when a state title bout is advertised, the general public is assured that it is, indeed, between two deserving individuals.

#### 22.03: Philosophy

The philosophy behind the State Championship Program is to have the combatants themselves prove they are worthy of a top ranking. Movement in the rankings of top combatants should ultimately be based upon wins and losses and not on subjective criteria. For combatants to maintain top ranking, they should be, at the very least, active and competing against other ranked opponents. This type of ranking system is intended to increase activity among the top combatants of the state.

#### 22.04: Ranking Panel

Rankings shall be determined by a three member panel appointed by the Commission for such purpose. There shall be one panel appointed for purposes of determining rankings of boxers and one panel appointed for purposes of determining rankings of mixed martial arts combatants. Appointment to the ranking panel shall be for a term of two years. Members of the panel shall serve at the pleasure of the Commission. No person may serve on both rankings panels.

#### 22.05: Approval of Rankings

Once determined, the ranking panel shall forward the proposed rankings to the Commission for approval. The Commission may adjust the rankings, but shall generally defer to the recommendation of the ranking panel and shall exercise such discretionary authority with due circumspection.

22.06: Ranking Criteria

- (1) The following factors, in no particular order, shall be considered by the ranking panel in determining rankings:
  - (a) Overall win/loss record;
  - (b) Overall level of completion including records of opponents;
  - (c) Results versus common opponents;
  - (d) Overall level and frequency of activity;
  - (e) Level and frequency of activity within Massachusetts.
- (2) The following factors shall not be considered by the ranking panel in determining rankings:
  - (a) The identity of the combatant's promoter, manager or any other person with whom the combatant is affiliated.
  - (b) The attendance of the combatant or the combatant's affiliates at a convention, conference, or other function sponsored by the Commission.
  - (c) Any activity not directly related to a combatant's performance as a professional combatant with the exception of any activity that directly undermines the integrity of the unarmed combative sports.

22.07: Weight Classes

Unless otherwise indicated, there shall be rankings and a champion in each of the following nine weight classes:

- (1) Heavyweight;
- (2) Cruiserweight;
- (3) Light-heavy weight;
- (4) Middleweight;
- (5) Welterweight;
- (6) Lightweight;
- (7) Featherweight;
- (8) Bantamweight;
- (9) Flyweight.

22.08: Rankings

There may be up to ten combatants ranked in each weight class identified in 523 CMR 22.07. No combatant can be ranked in more than one division at one time. For a combatant to be ranked, they must reside in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or if a non-resident, have fought in Massachusetts at least two times in the preceding calendar year for a boxer and four times in the preceding calendar year for a mixed martial arts combatant. In order for a boxer to be ranked, they shall have competed in at least two bouts scheduled for six rounds, or three bouts scheduled for four rounds.

22.09: Maintaining Rankings

- (1) In order to maintain a spot in the rankings, a boxer:
  - (a) shall compete in Massachusetts at least once during a 12 month period from the time the combatant gets ranked; and,
  - (b) shall have competed against another ranked boxer in Massachusetts within an 22 month period from the time the boxer gets ranked.
- (2) In order to maintain a spot in the rankings, a mixed martial arts combatant:

22.09: continued

- (a) shall compete in Massachusetts at least twice during a 12 month period from the time the combatant gets ranked; and
  - (b) shall have competed against another ranked boxer in Massachusetts within an 12 month period from the time the combatant gets ranked.
- (3) A combatant who does not meet the requirements set forth in 523 CMR 22.09(1) or (2) shall be immediately removed from the rankings. The combatant shall immediately regain eligibility once they alleviate the deficiency.
- (4) Exceptions. If a combatant does not meet the requirements set forth in 523 CMR 22.09(1) or (2), they may maintain their ranking if they are able to demonstrate to the Commission's satisfaction that such shortcoming was due to injury said injury must be verified in writing by a licensed physician) or for any exceptional circumstance deemed acceptable to the Commission.
- (5) If a ranked combatant loses to an un-ranked combatant, the ranked combatant shall be lowered at least one position in the rankings, and the un-ranked combatant shall be immediately considered for a ranking.
- (6) If two ranked combatants compete against each other and the lower ranked combatant wins, the lower ranked combatant shall be elevated in the rankings, and the higher ranked combatant shall be lowered in the rankings.

22.10: Initial Determination of a Champion

The initial champion in each weight class shall be named by the Commission based upon a recommendation of the ranking panel in a manner described in 523 CMR 22.04 through 22.06. The combatant may not take possession of the championship belt unless they win it in an actual bout against a mandatory challenger. The Commission may elect not to name a champion in a particular weight class if it is determined that the class of combatant competing in that division is inadequate to determine a meaningful champion. In the event that no champion is named, the Commission may designate the top two combatants in that division as mandatory challengers for each other.

22.11: Champions

A combatant may become the champion of a particular weight class by either being named champion initially by the Commission as described in 523 CMR 22.10 or by defeating the combatant who holds the championship in a match sanctioned by the Commission. No combatant may hold a championship in more than one weight class at a time. No combatant who has held a world or international title shall be eligible to hold the state championship. There shall be no "Super Champion".

22.12: Rules of Engagement

Championship boxing bouts shall be scheduled for ten rounds. Championship mixed martial arts bouts shall be scheduled for five rounds. The match shall be conducted in accordance with the rules set forth in 523 CMR 15.00: *Boxing Contests and Exhibitions* for boxing and 523 CMR 16.00: *Mixed Martial Arts Contests and Exhibitions* for mixed martial arts.

22.13: Defense and Transfer of Title

- (1) Title Defense. The champion shall defend their title in Massachusetts within nine months of receiving it and within nine months of their previous title defense. Failure of a champion to timely defend their title, without good cause as determined by the Commission, shall result in forfeiture of the title. In case of forfeiture, the Commission shall determine a new champion in the same manner as set forth in 523 CMR 22.10.
- (2) Transfer of Title. If a combatant defeats the champion in a Commission sanctioned match by knockout, technical knockout, submission, decision, or disqualification, that person shall become the new champion of that weight class.

22.14: Interim Champions

There shall be no "interim" champions. If a champion is injured or otherwise incapacitated and thus cannot satisfy their title defense obligations set forth in 523 CMR 22.09(1) or (2), the Commission may for good cause grant the combatant an additional 60 day grace period in which to make the required title defense. If no title defense is made by either the end of the grace period or the mandatory defense period set forth in 523 CMR 22.09(1) or (2), whichever is later in time, the next two highest ranked combatants in that weight class shall compete for the title. Once the injured champion notifies the Commission that they are able to resume competing, that individual shall be the mandatory challenger for the new champion.

22.15: Mandatory Challengers

The Commission may identify a combatant as a mandatory challenger within a weight class. In order to be identified as a mandatory challenger, the combatant must either be ranked number two in the weight class, have won an elimination bout between top contenders from within the weight class, or designated as such pursuant to 523 CMR. If a mandatory challenger is identified in a weight class, the champion must fight that individual within nine months in order to maintain the title. Failure of the champion to do so shall be cause for the Commission to strip the champion of the title. In such a case, a new champion shall be determined consistent with 523 CMR 22.10. Failure of a mandatory challenger to accept a fight with the champion within nine months of being so named will result in that individual being stripped of the designation and being lowered in the rankings.

22.16: Discipline

At its sole discretion, the Commission may by majority vote remove any combatant from the rankings or strip a combatant of a championship for any violations of 523 CMR, violation of any law of the Commonwealth or the United States, or engaging in any behavior that undermines the integrity of unarmed combative sports. After such vote, the Commission shall notify the combatant of the decision in writing and reasons therefore. The combatant may appeal said decision within 30 days of receipt thereof and request a hearing before the Commission. Hearings shall be conducted pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A and 801 CMR 1.02: *Informal/Fair Hearings Rules*. The combatant shall be notified of such hearing in writing a reasonable period of time in advance. Mailing of such notice *via* first class mail to the address provided to the Commission as part of the licensing process shall be considered proper notice for these purposes.

22.17: Sponsorship

The Commission may accept sponsorship funds from public or private organizations or individuals for purposes of implementing and promoting the State Championship Program. Sponsorship funds may not be accepted from any organization or individual that has, or may have, a stake or interest, direct or indirect, in the outcome of any match or an individual boxer. Nor may funds be accepted from any organization or individual that is in any way under the regulatory authority of the Commission or Department of Public Safety. No sponsorship agreement entered into between the Commission and a sponsor shall in any way be construed so as to create any obligations beyond those otherwise set forth in 523 CMR upon any specific combatant, promoter or other licensee. By virtue of being ranked or obtaining a championship, a combatant consents to use of their name or likeness in any promotional materials disseminated by the Commission in furtherance of the State Championship Program. A combatant may refuse a ranking or championship by notifying the Commission of such in writing. Any promoter who promotes a championship event, consents to permit the Commission to engage in any reasonable promotional efforts including posting of signage at the event. Further, the promoter agrees to reasonably accommodate requests made by Program sponsors whenever possible.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

523 CMR 22.00: M.G.L. c. 147, § 46.

523 CMR 23.00: SOUTHEAST ASIAN KICKBOXING

Section

- 23.01: Applicability
- 23.02: Requirements for Ring
- 23.03: Combatant Classification
- 23.04: Number and Duration of Rounds
- 23.05: Weight Classes
- 23.06: Specifications for Bandages on Southeast Asian Kickboxing Combatants' Hands
- 23.07: Mouth Pieces
- 23.08: Protective Equipment
- 23.09: Gloves
- 23.10: Apparel
- 23.11: Traditional Pre-fight Rituals
- 23.12: Use of Ointments
- 23.13: Stopping a Contest
- 23.14: Double Knockout Situations
- 23.15: Downward Pointed Elbow Strikes
- 23.16: Legal Techniques for Professional Contests
- 23.17: Illegal Techniques/Fouls in Professional Contests
- 23.18: Legal Techniques for Amateur Contests
- 23.19: Illegal Techniques/Fouls in Amateur Contests
- 23.20: Ploughing and Grabbing of an Opponent's Leg
- 23.21: Fouls Further Explained
- 23.22: Judging
- 23.23: Cautions and Warnings
- 23.24: Fouls
- 23.25: Injuries Sustained During Competition
- 23.26: The Referee
- 23.27: Referee's Duties
- 23.28: The Decision
- 23.29: Procedure after a Knock-out or Technical Knock-out
- 23.30: Procedure When an Unarmed Combatant Has Fallen Through or Been Knocked Through Ropes
- 23.31: Interpretation
- 23.32: Variances

23.01: Applicability

The provisions of 523 CMR 23.00 shall apply to all professional and amateur Southeast Asian Kickboxing matches and exhibitions required to be licensed in accordance with M.G.L. c. 147, § 32 and individuals required to be licensed in accordance with M.G.L. c. 147, § 35.

23.02: Requirements for Ring

- (1) Southeast Asian Kickboxing competitions must be conducted in a ring in conformance with 523 CMR 23.02(2).
- (2) A ring used for a contest or exhibition of Southeast Asian Kickboxing must meet the following requirements:
  - (a) The ring may be either of three sizes; 18 feet x 18 feet, 20 feet x 20 feet, or 24 feet x 24 feet, measured from the inner side of the ropes.
  - (b) The ring floor shall be soundly constructed with no obstructions, and extend at least three feet but not more than four feet beyond the ropes.
  - (c) The ring floor shall be based on either felt, rubber or other flexible materials not less than ¼ inch and not more than ½ inch thick, entirely covered with canvas stretched tightly over the entire ring floor.
  - (d) All four ring corners must be erected with four ring posts of five inches in diameter. The erected height must be 60 inches from the ring floor and the inner corners of the ropes must be completely taped to prevent harm to competitors.

## 23.02: continued

- (e) There shall be a minimum of four ropes at least 1.18 inches and not more than 1.97 inches diameter, stretched tightly to the four corner posts. Each side of the rope ring shall be held rigid by two pieces of strong cloth equally spaced each side. The tightening cloths shall not slip when the ropes are moved.
- (f) There shall be at least two sets of steps to the ring: one set of steps at each of the red and blue corners provided for the competitors and their seconds.

23.03: Combatant Classification

There shall be amateur and professional classifications of Southeast Asian Kickboxing participants. No individual shall be eligible to compete as a professional until he or she has competed as an amateur and is adequately experienced. Any combatant who has been classified as a professional athlete in any other pugilistic sport by any official sanctioning body shall be prohibited from fighting as an amateur.

23.04: Number and Duration of Rounds

In all Southeast Asian Kickboxing contests the number and duration of rounds must conform to the following criteria unless granted a waiver or dispensation by the State Athletic Commission:

- (1) Amateur. Rounds of two minutes in duration.
- (2) Professional. Rounds of three minutes in duration.
- (3) Non-title Bouts. Depending upon the discipline, bouts shall consist of three or five rounds of the appropriate duration with a one minute rest period between rounds. Amateur bouts shall be three rounds.
- (4) Title Bouts.
  - (a) Amateur. Bouts shall consist of five rounds of the appropriate duration with a one minute rest period between rounds.
  - (b) Professional. Bouts shall consist of five rounds of the appropriate durations with a one minute rest period between rounds.
- (5) Considerations.
  - (a) The three knockdowns rule could be in effect for knockdowns caused by strikes to the head.
  - (b) A combatant cannot be saved by the bell in any round, including the final round.
  - (c) The standard eight count shall be utilized.

23.05: Weight Classes

- (1) Southeast Asian Kickboxing Combatants shall be classified as follows:
  - (a) Atom weight ..... 95 to 105 lbs
  - (b) Straw weight ..... 105.1 to 115 lbs
  - (c) Flyweight ..... 115.1 to 125 lbs
  - (d) Bantamweight ..... 125.1 to 130 lbs
  - (e) Light Featherweight ..... 130.1 to 135 lbs
  - (f) Featherweight ..... 135.1 to 140 lbs
  - (g) Super Lightweight ..... 140.1 to 145 lbs
  - (h) Lightweight ..... 145.1 to 150 lbs
  - (i) Light Welterweight ..... 150.1 to 155 lbs
  - (j) Welterweight ..... 155.1 to 160 lbs
  - (k) Light Middleweight ..... 160.1 to 170 lbs
  - (l) Middleweight ..... 170.1 to 185 lbs
  - (m) Light Heavyweight ..... 185.1 to 205 lbs
  - (n) Heavyweight ..... 205.1 to 235 lbs
  - (o) Super Heavyweight ..... over 235 lbs



23.05: continued

- (2) Combatants shall be given a one pound allowance except for title fights where no allowance is given.
- (3) After the weigh in of an unarmed combatant competing in any Southeast Asian Kickboxing match, weight loss in excess of two pounds is not permitted. The weight loss may not occur later than one hour after the initial weigh-in of the combatant.

23.06: Specifications for Bandages on Southeast Asian Kickboxing Combatants' Hands

- (1) In all weight classes, the bandages on each contestant's hand shall be restricted to soft gauze cloth not more than 15 yards in length and two inches in width, held in place by not more than ten feet of surgeon's tape, two inches in width, for each hand. Surgeon's adhesive tape may be placed directly on each hand for protection near the wrist. The tape may cross the back of the hand twice and extend to within one inch of the knuckles when the hand is clenched to make a fist. Tape may be placed between the knuckles to secure the wrap but must not cover the striking surface. The bandages shall be evenly distributed across the hand. The bandages may be secured by one winding of lightplast (flectape) bandage with the same restriction of a one-inch gap from the knuckles of a clenched fist.
- (2) Bandages and tape for professional competitors shall be placed on the contestant's hands in the dressing room in the presence of a representative of the Commission. At the completion of the hand wrap, each shall be marked by a Deputy Commissioner indicating that it has been performed in accordance with 523 CMR 23.06(1). Amateur wraps need not be affixed in the presence of a representative of the Commission but shall be approved after application.
- (3) Each combatant shall be required to wrap their hands in accordance with 523 CMR 23.06.
- (4) Under no circumstances are gloves to be placed on the hands of a contestant until the approval of the Commission or its representative is received.

23.07: Mouth Pieces

- (1) All contestants are required to wear a mouthpiece during competition. The mouthpiece shall be subject to examination and approval by a Commission representative or referee.
- (2) No round may begin without a mouthpiece in place.
- (3) If a mouthpiece is involuntarily dislodged during competition, the referee shall call time, clean the mouthpiece and reinsert the mouthpiece at the first opportune moment without interfering with the immediate action.

23.08: Protective Equipment

- (1) Male Southeast Asian Kickboxing combatants shall wear a groin protector of their own selection.
- (2) Female combatants shall wear approved anatomically correct groin protectors.
- (3) Female combatants may wear a chest protector during competition. The chest protector shall be subject to approval of the Commission.
- (4) Amateur combatants shall wear shin guards and elbow pads approved by the Commission.
- (5) The promoter shall provide the shin guards and elbow pads.
- (6) All protective equipment is subject to the inspection and approval by the Commission or its representative.

23.09: Gloves

The promoter shall provide gloves for the combatants in accordance with 523 CMR 12.05: *Requirements for Gloves*. Combatants competing against one another shall wear the same size gloves. Amateurs shall wear no less than 12 ounce gloves, and Super Heavyweights shall wear no less than fourteen ounce gloves.

23.10: Apparel

- (1) All combatants shall wear Southeast Asian boxing style shorts without pockets.
- (2) Contestants may wear traditional armbands secured around the biceps. No metal or abrasive material may be contained.
- (3) Gis or shirts are prohibited during competition for males. Females may wear an armless shirt. The shirt shall be tucked into the shorts and may not be loose or in any way impede the combatant.
- (4) Shoes are prohibited during competition. Combatants shall compete barefoot.
- (5) Elastic support anklets may be worn.
- (6) Elastic or neoprene-style knee supports may be worn with approval of the Commission, and may not contain any hard or solid material.

23.11: Traditional Pre-fight Rituals

Prior to the start of the first round, a combatant may perform traditional pre fight rituals, limited to one minute. There shall be a five minute time limit on traditional pre fight rituals prior to championship fights. A combatant who interferes in any way with his or her opponent as they perform their own ritual will be disqualified and the match awarded to the opponent.

23.12: Use of Ointments

The application of limited petroleum jelly to the face at ringside is permissible. The application of Thai liniment (NammanMuay) to the combatant's body is also permissible. NammanMuay shall not be confused with other conventional and readily available oils, greases, ointments, balms or butters with brand names.

23.13: Stopping a Contest

The referee is the sole arbiter of a bout and the only individual authorized to enter the fighting area at any time during competition and authorized to stop a contest. A ringside physician may enter the ring at any time between rounds of a contest or when summoned by the referee.

23.14: Double Knockout Situations

The referee shall stop a contest or exhibition at any stage if the referee determines that both unarmed combatants are in such a condition that continuation of the fight would subject them both to serious injury. If a contest or exhibition is stopped pursuant to 523 CMR 23.14, the decision shall be deemed a technical draw.

23.15: Downward Pointed Elbow Strikes

Ceiling to floor or 12 to six elbow strikes are prohibited.

23.16: Legal Techniques for Professional Contests

All of the following legal techniques are to be read in harmony with, and are subject to, the rules governing illegal techniques/fouls in professional contests set forth in 523 CMR 23.17. All of the following techniques are legal:

## 23.16: continued

- (a) All kicks to legal targets;
- (b) Knee strikes to legal targets;
- (c) Elbow strikes to legal targets;
- (d) Strikes with all padded/gloved surfaces of the fists;
- (e) Spinning and jumping techniques;
- (f) Neck wrestling to unbalance and show control;
- (g) Catching kicks;
- (h) Clinching to strike or unbalance;
- (i) Sweeping the leg of an opponent using the front of the leg as defined by malleolus to malleolus through the front of side of the leg;
- (j) Sweeping the leg of an opponent using the knee;
- (k) A legal strike of the opponent's leg in a manner which causes him or her to fall;
- (l) Twisting of an opponent over a planted leg;
- (m) Pushing an opponent in a manner to unbalance him or her.

23.17: Illegal Techniques/Fouls in Professional Contests

All of the following illegal techniques/fouls are to be read in harmony with, and are subject to, the rules governing legal techniques in professional contests set forth in 523 CMR 23.16. All of the following techniques are prohibited:

- (a) Butting with the head;
- (b) Eye gouging of any kind;
- (c) Biting or spitting at an opponent;
- (d) Groin attacks or strikes of any kind;
- (e) Downward pointing elbow strikes to the head;
- (f) Strikes to the spine;
- (g) Throat strikes of any kind;
- (h) Kicking a grounded combatant/striking an opponent who has fallen;
- (i) Kneeing a grounded combatant;
- (j) Stomping of a grounded combatant or stomping the foot of a standing opponent;
- (k) Use of illegal techniques to throw an opponent;
- (l) Circular neck twisting;
- (m) Striking the back of the head;
- (n) Directly attacking the knee joint;
- (o) Any joint attack including neck locks;
- (p) Striking after the bell/signal has sounded;
- (q) Striking after break has been called;
- (r) Rubbing open lacerations;
- (s) Any throw utilizing the hip to propel the opponent;
- (t) Any trip or sweep using the rear of the leg as defined by malleolus to malleolus through the heel;
- (u) Elevation of the opponent which causes both feet to leave the ground before executing a throw;
- (v) Any "back breaking" technique which causes pressure on the opponent's spine;
- (w) The use of abusive language in fighting area;
- (x) Any unsportsmanlike conduct that causes an injury to an opponent;
- (y) Attacking an opponent who is under the referee's care at the time;
- (z) Timidity (avoiding contact, or consistent dropping of mouthpiece, or faking an injury);
- (aa) Interference from a competitor's seconds;
- (bb) Holding on to the ropes or corner padding;
- (cc) Intentionally throwing or trying to force an opponent out of the fighting area;
- (dd) Flagrant disregard of the referee's instructions.

23.18: Legal Techniques for Amateur Contests

All of the following legal techniques are to be read in harmony with, and are subject to, the rules governing illegal techniques/fouls in amateur contests set forth in 523 CMR 23.19. All of the following techniques are legal:

## 23.18: continued

- (a) All kicks to legal targets;
- (b) Knee strikes to legal targets;
- (c) Strikes with all padded/gloved surfaces of the fists;
- (d) Spinning and jumping techniques;
- (e) Neck wrestling to unbalance and show control;
- (f) Catching kicks;
- (g) Clinching to strike or unbalance;
- (h) Sweeping the leg of an opponent using the front of the leg as defined by malleolus to malleolus through the front of side of the leg;
- (i) Sweeping the leg of an opponent using the knee;
- (j) A legal strike of the opponent's leg in a manner which causes him or her to fall;
- (k) Twisting of an opponent over a planted leg;
- (l) Pushing an opponent in a manner to unbalance him or her;
- (m) Elbow strikes with elbow pad to legal target.

23.19: Illegal Techniques/Fouls in Amateur Contests

All of the following illegal techniques/fouls are to be read in harmony with, and are subject to, the rules governing legal techniques in amateur contests set forth in 523 CMR 23.18. All of the following techniques are prohibited:

- (a) Butting with the head;
- (b) Eye gouging of any kind;
- (c) Biting or spitting at an opponent;
- (d) Elbowing including any part of the forearm;
- (e) Groin attacks or strikes of any kind;
- (f) Downward pointing elbow strikes to the head;
- (g) Strikes to the spine;
- (h) Throat strikes of any kind;
- (i) Kicking a grounded combatant/striking an opponent who has fallen;
- (j) Kneeing a grounded combatant;
- (k) Stomping of a grounded combatant or stomping the foot of a standing opponent;
- (l) Kneeing the head of an opponent;
- (m) Use of illegal techniques to throw an opponent;
- (n) Circular neck twisting;
- (o) Striking the back of the head;
- (p) Directly attacking the knee joint;
- (q) Any joint attack including neck locks;
- (r) Striking after the bell/signal has sounded;
- (s) Striking after break has been called;
- (t) Rubbing open lacerations;
- (u) Any throw utilizing the hip to propel the opponent;
- (v) Any trip or sweep using the rear of the leg as defined by malleolus to malleolus through the heel;
- (w) Elevation of the opponent which causes both feet to leave the ground before executing a throw;
- (x) Any "back breaking" technique which causes pressure on the opponent's spine;
- (y) The use of abusive language in fighting area;
- (z) Any unsportsmanlike conduct that causes an injury to an opponent;
- (aa) Attacking an opponent who is under the referee's care at the time;
- (bb) Timidity (avoiding contact, or consistent dropping of mouthpiece, or faking an injury);
- (cc) Interference from a competitor's seconds;
- (dd) Holding on to the ropes or corner padding;
- (ee) Intentionally throwing or trying to force an opponent out of the fighting area;
- (ff) Flagrant disregard of the referee's instructions.

23.20: Ploughing and Grabbing of an Opponent's Leg

Ploughing is the act of catching an opponent's leg and walking toward him or her. When an opponent's leg is caught, the combatant may take three steps toward their opponent before having to release the leg.

23.21: Fouls Further Explained

- (1) Direct (side kick style) kicks to the front of a combatant's weight-bearing leg is prohibited.
- (2) Hip Throws.
  - (a) Over the hip throws such as in Japanese arts like Judo, Jujitsu, Karate, Sambo, or San Shou are illegal.
  - (b) Taking an Opponent around the Waist with both Arms and Twisting him/her off balance so the Opponent will fall is legal.
- (3) A combatant shall not twist and pull an opponent over the side of his or her body and then land on top.
- (4) It is an intentional foul when a combatant plans, with the sole intention of falling on top of his or her opponent, to either strike with the knee or to intentionally hurt the opponent while down, by contriving to make it look like an accident.
- (5) Stepping on a fallen opponent is illegal.
- (6) Illegal Trips.
  - (a) If a combatant positions a foot next to the opponent and twists him or her over the leg, it is an illegal trip unless the leg is cleared as the opponent falls.
  - (b) The leg must clear immediately after the opponent is pulled or tripped over the knee. Clear shall mean that the leg must be moved out of the way before the opponent hits the canvas by skipping the leg or slightly jumping to the side, as long as it is moved from the original position. Taking out an opponent's footing is legal only if the tripping leg is withdrawn from contact as he or she falls to the ground.
- (7) Neck Wrestling.
  - (a) If in a clinch with arms around each other's shoulder, such as to deliver or defend from an elbow strike, twisting the opponent using the upper body in such a way that he or she will fall to the ground is allowed.
  - (b) By using neck and shoulder manipulation, it is legal for a combatant to spin and throw/dump an opponent to the canvas without using any part of his or her body as a barrier.
- (8) Sweeping.
  - (a) A combatant is allowed to roundhouse kick the opponent's supporting leg with the top of his or her own foot or shin, taking out the opponent's footing, but Karate style sweeps with the foot's instep are illegal.
  - (b) It is illegal to take out the opponent's footing in the clinch by sweeping the back of his or her supporting leg with the back of combatant's own leg or calf.
- (9) Lifting. It is illegal in any way to lift an opponent such that both feet leave the ground and then throw him or her on the canvas.
- (10) Downed Combatant. Anything other than the soles of a combatant's feet touching the ground will be considered a downed combatant.
- (11) Cartwheel Kick. If a combatant puts his or her hand(s) down for the sole purpose of performing a cartwheel kick, said combatant will not be considered a downed combatant and may be struck by an opponent.

23.22: Judging

- (1) All bouts shall be evaluated and scored by three judges. The *Ten point Must System* shall be the standard system of scoring a bout. Under the *Ten point Must Scoring System*, ten points shall be awarded to the winner of the round and nine points or fewer shall be awarded to the loser, except for an even round, which is scored 10-10.
- (2) Awarding of Points. In determining the score, judges shall evaluate Southeast Asian Kickboxing techniques such as effective striking, clinching, control of the fighting area, and effective aggressiveness and defense.

23.22: continued

- (a) Points will be awarded whenever the combatant hits the opponent by punching, kicking, kneeing or elbowing (for professionals) with force, which lands on target without infringement and without being blocked or guarded against.
  - (b) Effective striking is judged by determining the number of legal strikes landed by a combatant and the significance of such legal strikes.
  - (c) Fighting area control is judged by determining who is dictating the pace, location, and position of the bout.
  - (d) Effective aggressiveness means moving forward and landing a legal strike.
  - (e) Effective defense means avoiding being struck while countering with offensive attacks.
- (3) The following objective scoring criteria shall be utilized by the judges when scoring a round:
- (a) A round is to be scored as a 10-10 round when both combatants appear to be fighting evenly and neither combatant shows dominance in a round;
  - (b) A round is to be scored as a 10-9 round when a combatant wins by a close but clear margin, landing the greater number of effective legal strikes and other maneuvers.
  - (c) A round is to be scored as a 10-8 round when a combatant wins a round by a wide margin and damages his or her opponent. A round is scored a 10-8 round when a combatant receives a standing eight count, however a combatant can win back a 10-9 in that round.
  - (d) A round is to be scored as a 10-7 round when a combatant totally and completely dominates in a round and damages his or her opponent. A round is scored a 10-7 when a combatant receives two standing eight counts in the same round.
- (4) Techniques. The following techniques which have a visible impact on the opponent should be weighed most heavily:
- (a) Knocking the opponent to the ground with a legal strike;
  - (b) Unbalancing the opponent with a legal strike;
  - (c) Techniques that cause the opponent to stop advancing;
  - (d) Techniques that force an opponent to cover up and limit his or her offense;
  - (e) Defense and ability to evade the opponent's attack; and
  - (f) Maintenance of proper footwork, balance, stance, and stamina.

23.23: Cautions and Warnings

- (1) The referee may choose to caution a combatant if he or she perceives that there may be an impending foul or if there has been an unintentional foul. A caution carries no judging penalty but may advise the referee in assessing a warning for similar fouls.
- (2) The referee may issue a warning for rule infractions or assess a one point penalty. The point shall be subtracted from the final round score by the judges.
- (3) Severity of the penalty shall be determined by the impact the illegal act had on the bout. A combatant should never benefit from an illegal act. If the act in question results in giving the combatant a positional advantage, the referee may stop the action to take away the advantage. If the combatant uses an illegal technique to escape from a disadvantaged position, the referee may issue a warning.

23.24: Fouls

- (1) Only a referee can assess a foul. Judges shall not make that assessment and shall not factor such into their scoring calculations.
- (2) The referee may immediately terminate a bout based upon a single foul if he or she determines that it was intentional and flagrant. In that event, the fight shall be deemed a disqualification.
- (3) Fouls assessed by the referee will result in a point deduction by the judge from the offending combatant's score.

## 23.24: continued

- (4) A combatant fouled by a low blow has up to five minutes to recuperate.
- (5) If a combatant is fouled by a blow that the referee deems illegal, but not a low blow, the referee should stop the action and call for time. The referee may take the injured combatant to the ringside doctor and have the ringside doctor examine the combatant as to his or her ability to continue on in the contest. The ringside doctor has up to five minutes to make a determination. If the ringside doctor determines that the combatant can continue in the contest, the referee shall as soon as practical restart the fight. However, unlike the low blow foul rule, the combatant does not have up to five minutes of time to use at his or her discretion.
- (6) If a foul is committed, the referee shall:
  - (a) Call time;
  - (b) Check the fouled combatant's condition and safety; and
  - (c) Assess the foul to the offending contestant, deduct points, and notify each corner's seconds, judges, and the official scorekeeper.

23.25: Injuries Sustained During Competition

- (1) If a combatant sustains an injury during competition due to a legal maneuver that is severe enough to terminate a bout, the injured contestant loses by technical knockout.
- (2) If a combatant sustains an injury during competition due an intentional foul that is severe enough to terminate a bout, the contestant causing the injury loses by disqualification.
- (3) If a combatant sustains an injury during competition due to an intentional foul and the bout continues, the referee shall notify the scorekeeper to deduct two points from the contestant who committed the foul.
- (4) If an injury caused by an intentional foul results in the contest or exhibition being stopped in a later round:
  - (a) The injured unarmed combatant wins by technical decision, if he or she is ahead on the scorecards; or
  - (b) The contest or exhibition shall be declared a technical draw, if the injured unarmed combatant is behind or even on the scorecards.
- (5) If an injury sustained during competition from an accidental foul is severe enough for the referee to stop the bout immediately, the bout shall result in a technical decision awarded to the combatant who is ahead on the scorecards at the time the referee stops the bout. This happens only when the referee stops the bout when the combatants completed two rounds of a three round bout, or three rounds of a five round bout.
- (6) There should be scoring of an incomplete round. If the referee penalizes either combatant, then the appropriate points shall be deducted when the scorekeeper calculates the final score for the partial round.

23.26: The Referee

- (1) The primary duty of the referee is to ensure the safety of the combatants to the maximum degree.
- (2) The Referee's Responsibilities.
  - (a) The referee's uniform shall consist of black trousers, with no belt buckle, and black short sleeved shirt and flat soled shoes. No visible jewelry is allowed.
  - (b) The referee shall ensure the following:
    - 1. Fairness in the application of 523 CMR to all parties.
    - 2. No impoliteness in manner or speech either to the combatants or the audience.
    - 3. Close supervision of the match.
    - 4. Protection of a weaker combatant against serious injury.
    - 5. Inspection of the boxing gloves and anklets, and that the proper safety equipment is worn.

23.26: continued

6. The referee shall inform the combatants and their seconds of the rules and regulations governing the fight. This is to be done in the dressing room, prior to the fight itself.
- (3) Three verbal orders are recognized.
  - (a) "STOP" command ordering the combatants to stop fighting.
  - (b) "BREAK" when ordering the combatants to separate.
  - (c) "FIGHT" when ordering the combatants to continue the match.
- (4) When the combatants are ordered to "BREAK," both shall step back one step and await the referee's "FIGHT" order before continuing to fight.
- (5) The referee shall use the correct signal to ensure a combatant's understanding of any rule infringement.
- (6) At the end of each round the referee shall collect the score sheets from each of the three judges and hand them to the scorekeeper.
- (7) Should it be necessary to stop the match or penalize a combatant, the referee shall immediately advise the reason to the judges and the scorekeeper.
- (8) The referee is forbidden to comment or speculate on any match unless receiving prior approval from the committee chairman.
- (9) All referees are subjected to a yearly medical inspection and certification by a physician approved by the Commission and shall be physically fit at the start of any match.

23.27: Referee's Duties

- (1) To stop the match immediately if he or she considers that one combatant is significantly more skilled or stronger than the other.
- (2) To stop the match immediately when a combatant is in difficulty or is injured.
- (3) To stop the match immediately if he or she considers that one or both combatants are not honestly competing.
- (4) To stop the match or warn the combatant for committing a foul or breaking the rules.
- (5) To immediately disqualify a combatant who intentionally breaks the rules, injures or shows any aggression to the referee.
- (6) To disqualify both the combatant and his or her seconds if his or her seconds intentionally break the rules or do not follow his or her directions.
- (7) To disqualify any combatant who intentionally causes or accidentally causes a foul multiple times.
- (8) To stop the match if he or she considers that a combatant having received a count is unable to effectively continue the match.
- (9) To disallow any advantage to a combatant who intentionally fouls in any way.

23.28: The Decision

- (1) A knock out (K.O.) is awarded when the opponent is knocked down and unable to continue within the ten second count.
  - (a) When any combatant falls out of the ring, the referee shall count immediately.
    1. If the count reaches 20, the fallen combatant cannot come up on the ring and he or she will lose by K.O.



## 23.28: continued

2. If the fallen combatant can come up on the ring before the count reaches 20, he or she may continue the fight.
- (2) A technical knock out (T.K.O.) is awarded.
  - (a) When a combatant is seriously hurt or weakened.
  - (b) When a combatant cannot continue the match after the break.
  - (c) On the doctor's recommendation, when the referee is unsure whether a combatant can continue the match due to injury or being seriously weakened.
  - (d) After receiving a count twice previously in the same round, upon the need for a third count.
  - (e) Winning due to the opponent's retirement because of injury.
- (3) Winning on Points.
  - (a) Unanimous. When all three judges score the bout for the same contestant.
  - (b) Split Decision. When two judges score the bout for one contestant and one judge scores for the other.
  - (c) Majority Decision. When two judges score the bout for the same contestant and one judge scores a draw
- (4) Disqualification.
  - (a) No Decision. A result of both parties colluding together to cheat or not fighting properly.
  - (b) Disqualification. Winning due to the opponent's violation of the rules.
- (5) No Contest. A no contest shall be declared when the referee stops a contest due to accidental injury and the requisite number of rounds have not been completed to render a decision via the scorecards, or as a result of the ring being damaged and the match not being able to continue, or if an external event occurs during the fight, causing it to be stopped, or if both combatants are unable to continue due to injury. If less than one round of a three round bout or three rounds of a five round bout has been completed at the time of the stoppage, the bout shall be declared a no contest. If the requisite number of rounds has been reached, individual score decides.
- (6) Draws.
  - (a) Unanimous. When all three judges score the bout a draw.
  - (b) Majority. When two judges score the bout a draw.
  - (c) Split. When all three judges score the bout differently and the score total results in a draw.
  - (d) When both combatants receive a count of ten.

23.29: Procedure after a Knock-out or Technical Knock-out

- (1) When an unarmed combatant is knocked down, the referee shall order the opponent to retire to the farthest neutral corner of the ring, by pointing to the corner, and shall immediately begin the count over the unarmed combatant who is down. The referee shall audibly announce the passing of the seconds, accompanying the count with motions of his or her arm, with the downward motion indicating the end of each second.
- (2) No unarmed combatant who is knocked down may be allowed to resume competing until the referee has finished counting to eight. The unarmed combatant may take the count either on the floor or standing.
- (3) If the opponent fails to stay in the farthest corner, the referee shall cease counting until he or she has returned to his or her corner and shall then go on with the count from the point at which it was interrupted. If the unarmed combatant who is down arises before the count of 10, the referee may step between the unarmed combatants long enough to assure himself or herself that the unarmed combatant who has just arisen is in condition to continue. If so assured, he or she shall, without loss of time, order both unarmed combatants to go on with the contest or exhibition. During the intervention by the referee, the striking of a blow by either unarmed combatant may be ruled a foul.

## 23.29: continued

- (4) When an unarmed combatant is knocked out, the referee shall perform a full 10-second count unless, in the judgment of the referee, the safety of the unarmed combatant would be jeopardized by such a count. If the unarmed combatant who is knocked down is still down when the referee calls the count of 10, the referee shall wave both arms to indicate that he or she has been knocked out.
- (5) If both unarmed combatants go down at the same time, the count must be continued as long as one is still down. If both unarmed combatants remain down until the count of 10, the contest or exhibition must be stopped and the decision is a technical draw.
- (6) If an unarmed combatant is down and the referee is in the course of counting at the end of a period of unarmed combat, the bell indicating the end of the period of unarmed combat shall not be sounded, but the bell shall be sounded as soon as the downed unarmed combatant regains his or her feet.
- (7) When an unarmed combatant has been knocked down before the normal termination of a period of unarmed combat and the period of unarmed combat terminates before he or she has arisen from the floor of the ring, the referee's count must be continued. If the unarmed combatant who is down fails to arise before the count of 10, he or she is considered to have lost the contest or exhibition by a knockout in the round containing the period of unarmed combat that was just concluded.
- (8) If a legal blow struck in the final seconds of a period of unarmed combat causes an unarmed combatant to go down after the bell has sounded, that knockdown must be regarded as having occurred during the period of unarmed combat just ended and the appropriate count must continue.
- (9) If a combatant is knocked unconscious or injured, only the physician, the referee, and representative of the Commission are allowed in the ring. Any others may only enter at the physician's discretion.
- (10) A combatant losing by a K.O. or T.K.O. shall be immediately treated and undergo a physical examination by the ringside physician.
- (11) Without the special permission of the Commission, a combatant may not compete in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts unless four days for each round that their last contest or exhibition of Southeast Asian Kickboxing lasted have elapsed.

23.30: Procedure When an Unarmed Combatant Has Fallen Through or Been Knocked Through the Ropes

- (1) An unarmed combatant who has been knocked or has fallen through the ropes and over the edge of the ring platform during a contest or exhibition:
  - (a) May be helped back by anyone except his or her seconds or manager; and
  - (b) Shall be given 20 seconds to return to the ring.
- (2) An unarmed combatant who has been knocked or has fallen on the ring platform outside the ropes, but not over the edge of the ring platform:
  - (a) May not be helped back by anyone, including, without limitation, his or her seconds or manager; and
  - (b) Will be given ten seconds to regain his or her feet and get back into the ring.
- (3) If the seconds or manager of the unarmed combatant who has been knocked or has fallen pursuant to 523 CMR 23.30(1) and (2) helps the unarmed combatant back into the ring, such help may be cause for disqualification.
- (4) When one unarmed combatant has fallen through the ropes, the other unarmed combatant shall retire to the farthest corner and stay there until ordered to continue the contest or exhibition by the referee.

23.30: continued

(5) A downed combatant who deliberately wrestles or throws an opponent from the ring, or who hits him or her when he or she is partly out of the ring and is prevented by the ropes from assuming a position of defense, may be penalized. A downed combatant shall be deemed to be down when:

- (a) Any part of his or her body other than his or her feet is on the floor; or
- (b) He or she is hanging over the ropes without the ability to protect himself or herself and he or she cannot fall to the floor.

(6) A referee may count an unarmed combatant out if the unarmed combatant is on the floor or is being held up by the ropes.

23.31: Interpretation

The Commission will have discretion over any item not covered in 523 CMR 23.00 which does not have a prior ruling established by the State Athletic Commission.

23.32: Variances

A promoter of Southeast Asian kickboxing shall apply for a variance for an event that is expected to deviate from 523 CMR 23.00 in one or more respects. Applications for a variance shall specify any additional rules to be employed and all provisions of 523 CMR 23.00 that will not be met.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

523 CMR 23.00: M.G.L. c. 147, § 46.

NON-TEXT PAGE